



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

XXXII Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum

**University values and responsibilities:
responding to the challenges of the future**

Launch & Signature of the

MCU 2020

16-17 June 2021

on Zoom

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1. How to join the event



In order to join the zoom meeting, we kindly ask you to download the zoom app (link for your convenience <https://zoom.us/download>).

The web browser client will download automatically when you join your first zoom meeting, but in order to avoid technical problems, we kindly ask you to do it in advance.

There are 2 ways to join the Zoom meeting:

1. From the Zoom app on your desktop
2. From the Zoom website

Once you have signed in with your username and password, you will have to enter:

16th June 2021: the meeting ID: 816 8112 2818 & the password: 979877

17th June 2021: the meeting ID: 811 3620 6872 & the password: 023234

Please, keep your audio and video off.

You will first be placed in a waiting room. Following authorisation you will be placed in the virtual meeting room.

IMPORTANT: Your name that appears under your picture should be the same as you used to register for the webinar, so that we can recognize you. Thank you.

The event will be recorded and published on the MCO website.

In case you would like to submit questions, please, write them on the Chat.

2. Introduction to the event

Environmental changes faced by universities since 1988 and the challenges of the future - a global perspective



Since the Magna Charta Universitatum was first signed in 1988 the environment faced by universities has changed massively. The world has become interconnected in ways unimaginable in 1988 and the challenges faced by universities are much more complex. The number of universities has increased and universities themselves have had to change what they do and the way they do it.

Hence, after global consultation, a new version of the Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU 2020) has been prepared and will be launched at this event.

The first session will focus on the changes which universities have faced, their implications and the challenges which universities face now and will face in the future.

The second will focus on the MCU 2020, the need for it, the structure of it, how it differs from its predecessor and how universities might gain most value from engaging with it.

On the second day MCU 2020 will be launched and signed for the first time. Videos will show how signatories are putting values into practice and there will be inputs based on the themes of the new MCU which have been addressed in preparatory webinars.

You are part of a truly global gathering to witness the launch of MCU 2020 and join with others to enable universities to strengthen their role in society for the next generation.

3. Programme



16 June 2021

13.00 - 16.30 CEST

Session 1 – Higher Education

12.30 Waiting room open

13.00 Welcome and Introduction

Patrick Deane, President of the MCO Governing Council, Canada

13.10 Keynote addresses

Environmental changes since 1988 and the challenges of the future: a global perspective

Jamil Salmi, HE Consultant, formerly World Bank Tertiary Education Coordinator, Morocco

The challenges of the future: a university's response

Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector, Central European University, Hungary

13.55 Questions & discussion

14.25 Values in action: videos from MCO signatory universities:

University of Sydney - University of Alcalà

14.30 Break

Session 2 – A new Magna Charta

15.00 Moderator's Introduction

Sijbolt Noorda, former President of the MCO Governing Council and Chair of the MCU 2020 Drafting Group, Netherlands

15.10 The need for a new Magna Charta, the process of preparing it, and aspirations for the new document

Sijbolt Noorda, former President of the MCO Governing Council and Chair of the MCU 2020 Drafting Group, Netherlands

15.25 The New Magna Charta – What's new and how it can bring benefit to universities and to society

Patrick Deane, President of the MCO Governing Council and member of the MCU 2020 Drafting Group, Canada

15.40 What the new MCU means for students

Tamires Gomes Sampaio, member of the MCU 2020 Drafting Group, Brazil

15.55 Questions and discussion

16.25 Values in action: videos from MCO signatory universities

University of Bialystock - University of Valladolid

16.30 Close of Session 2

17 June 2021

11.00 - 13.30 CEST

Session 3 – Magna Charta 2020 – Launch and first signing



10.30 Waiting room open

11.00 Welcome

Francesco Ubertini, Rector of the University of Bologna and President of the MCO, Italy

11.05 Moderator's Introduction

Patrick Deane, President of the MCO Governing Council, Canada

11.10 Launch and first signing of the MCU 2020

Values in action: videos from MCO signatory universities

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

Bielefeld University

Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp)

Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences

National Pedagogical Dragomanov University

Queen's University

American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB)

Silesian University of Technology

Iliia State University

University of Lodz

Kalashnikov Izhevsk State Technical University

Luleå University of Technology

11.40 Response by Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn, Vice-Chancellor, Luleå University of Technology, signatory of the MCU2020

11.50 Short break

17 June 2021

11.00 - 13.30 CEST

Session 4 – Reflections on key themes and future action

12.00 Moderator's Introduction

Astrid Söderbergh Widding – Vice-President, MCO Governing Council, Sweden

12.10 Reflections from the MCO's themed webinars on the application of MCU 2020

. The response to Covid

Eva Egron-Polak, – Former Secretary General, International Association of Universities, former members MCO Governing Council, member of the MCU 2020 Drafting Group, France

. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - IAU's impact or specifically 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'

Hillegje van't Land, Secretary General, International Association of Universities, Belgium

. Widening Access and Achieving Equity

Marcelo Knobel, Former Rector UNICAMP, Member MCO Governing Council, Brazil

. EUA – Universities Without Walls

Amanda Crowfoot, Secretary General of European University Association, Belgium

. Involving Students Effectively

Peter Kwasi Kodjie, Secretary General of All-Africa Students Union & Member of MCO Governing Council, Ghana

13.10 MCO's Strategy 2020 – 2025

David Lock, Secretary General, MCO

13.20 Concluding remarks and future activities

Patrick Deane, President MCO Governing Council, Canada

13.30 Close of proceedings



4. Speakers' bios

Amanda Crowfoot joined EUA as Secretary General in January 2020. She is responsible for co-developing and implementing the Association's strategic plan and is an ambassador for all members, presenting a collective vision of strong universities in Europe and leading a team of 40 staff members in offices in Brussels and Geneva. Amanda previously served as Director of Science Europe, the association representing major public research funding and performing organisations in Europe. As Science Europe's first Director, she was responsible for establishing its office in Brussels in 2012, as well as developing and implementing its policy agenda.

From 2001 to 2012, Amanda worked at the UK Research Office (UKRO) – the Brussels office of the UK research councils – first as a European Advisor, and then as Director of the Office. In these roles she worked closely with universities in the UK and beyond, assisting them in accessing EU funding and defining their strategies for European engagement.

With a background in linguistics, prior to joining UKRO, Amanda Crowfoot taught and researched at several UK universities, and was Projects Manager at the Centre for Research and Policy in Disability at Coventry University.



Amanda
Crowfoot

4. Speakers' bios

Patrick Deane became the 21st Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University on July 1, 2019. He is the former President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University, a position he held for nine years. Prior to that he served as Vice-Principal (Academic) at Queen's and also held a number of academic administrative appointments at Western University and the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Deane is a Professor of English Literature, with his principal research focus being the relationship between cultural production and British politics in the first half of the Twentieth Century. He read English and Law at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, before undertaking graduate studies and receiving both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English Literature from Western University. Dr. Deane was the first recipient of the John Charles Polanyi Prize for Literature in 1988, and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. He is President of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory.



Patrick
Deane

4. Speakers' bios

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Born in Prague, Czech Republic, Eva Egron-Polak studied French Literature, Political Science and International Political Economy in Canada and in France. She was Secretary General of the International Association of Universities from 2002 until 2017. Prior to becoming IAU Secretary General, she worked for nearly two decades at Universities Canada, holding various positions including as Vice President, International. Today, as a higher education consultant, she continues to serve as an IAU Senior Fellow.

She has been a member of many Boards and international advisory committees of organizations such as the Magna Charta Observatory, the Global Access to Postsecondary Education initiative, the Global Centre for Higher Education, StudyPortal and the University Granada. She has consulted for the OECD, the European Commission, the Qatar Foundation and the World Bank.

Eva Egron-Polak co-authored two editions of the IAU Global Survey Report on Internationalization of Higher Education (2010 and 2014), the study on Internationalization of Higher Education for the EU Parliament (2015), and numerous articles and book chapters on higher education policy. She is the recipient of the Palmes academique from the Government of France and holds a Doctorate honoris causa from Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania and McMaster University, Canada.



**Eva
Egron-Polak**

4. Speakers' bios

Tamires Gomes Sampaio is a lawyer, master in Political and Economic Law. She was president of the Law Students Union of Mackenzie Presbyterian University (2014-2015) and vice president of the National Union of Students of Brazil (UNE) during 2015 to 2017. She participated in the Global Student Voice seminar in Norway in 2016 representing UNE and was one of the student leaders who wrote the Bergen Declaration. She was the student representative of the drafting group of Magna Charta Universitatum 2020.



**Tamires
Gomes
Sampaio**

4. Speakers' bios

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Born in Canada, educated at the University of Toronto and Harvard, Michael Ignatieff is a university professor, writer and former politician.

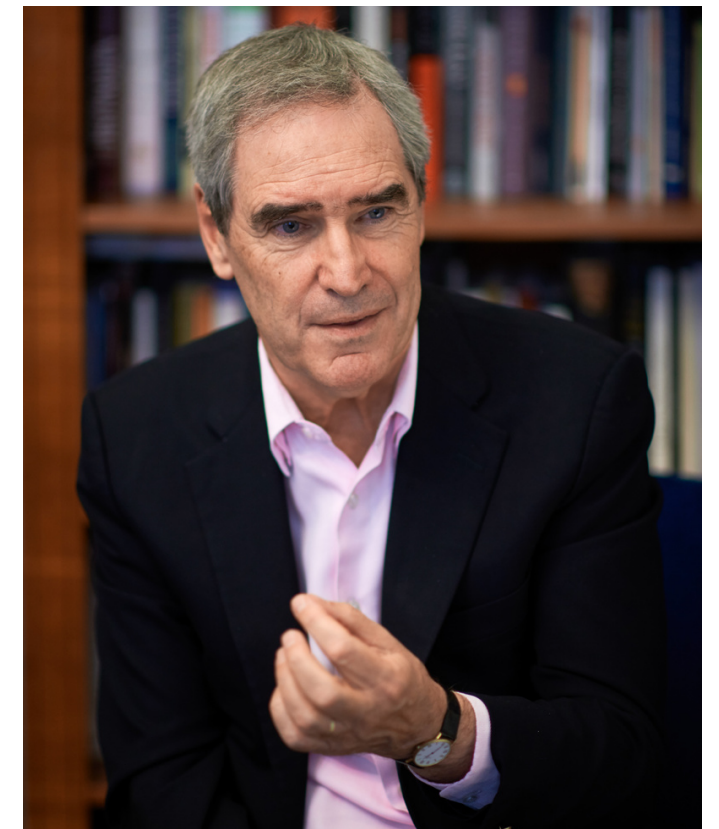
His major publications are *The Needs of Strangers* (1984), *Scar Tissue* (1992), *Isaiah Berlin* (1998), *The Rights Revolution* (2000), *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry* (2001), *The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror* (2004), *Fire and Ashes: Success and Failure in Politics* (2013), and *The Ordinary Virtues: Moral Order in a Divided World* (2017).

Between 2006 and 2011, he served as an MP in the Parliament of Canada and then as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and Leader of the Official Opposition. He is a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and holds thirteen honorary degrees.

Between 2012 and 2015 he served as Centennial Chair at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs in New York.

Between 2014 and 2016 he was Edward R. Murrow Chair of Press, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

He is currently the Rector and President of Central European University.



**Michael
Ignatieff**

4. Speakers' bios

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Marcelo Knobel is a member of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory. He is Full Professor of Physics and he was the 12th Rector of the University of Campinas (Unicamp), in Brazil, institution to which he has been linked for more than three decades.

After obtaining both his bachelor's and his PhD degrees in Physics from Unicamp, Knobel spent some time in Italy and Spain as a postdoctoral researcher. He joined Unicamp again upon his return to Brazil, but this time as a faculty member. Prior to becoming Rector, Knobel held several leadership roles at Unicamp. He was the first Executive Director of the Unicamp Exploratory Science Museum and served as Vice-Rector for Undergraduate Programs, just to mention a few examples. While in this last position, he was responsible for implementing an innovative interdisciplinary program, named ProFIS, which combines social inclusion with general higher education. This initiative gained him the 2013 Peter Muranyí Prize in Education.

Knobel held other important roles outside of Unicamp as well, including Vice-President of the Brazilian Physics Society and Executive Director of the Brazilian Nanotechnology National Laboratory (LNNano) at the Brazilian Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM). He is currently a member of the CNPEM Board of Directors. A researcher with a strong interest in science dissemination and higher education studies, Knobel has already published more than 250 scientific papers, in addition to numerous opinion pieces in both national and international newspapers and magazines. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials (Elsevier), and he was editor-in-chief of *Ciência & Cultura*, a science and technology magazine published by the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science (SBPC) during 10 years.

Knobel is an Eisenhower Fellow (2007), Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2009) and Lemann Fellow (2015).



**Marcelo
Knobel**

4. Speakers' bios

Peter Kwasi Kodjie is a member of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory. He is currently the Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), where he previously served as the Head of Research and Communications. He is one of the youngest persons to ever serve on the Board of the Ghana AIDS Commission, the Vice Chancellor's Endowment Fund Committee at the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), Technical Committees at the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Peter represented the students of Africa on the Tuning Africa Project Advisory Group (TAPAG) Phase II, and currently an advisory board member of the Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative, and the Africa Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) - joint European Union-African Union projects on the harmonization of the Higher Education ecosystem in Africa.

Peter has extensive experience in students and youth leadership, ranging from high school to the tertiary level, where he was elected as President of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS). In the past, Peter has worked in several volunteer roles with leading advocacy civil society organizations like the Consumer Advocacy Centre (CAC), African Youth Network (AYN) and Transformed Youth Initiative (TYI) to initiate key talking points and advancing the conversation for an empowered youth in Africa. Together with other youth leaders, Peter is a founding Trustee on the 100 Million Campaign (founded by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi). Peter is also a founding member of the Global Student Forum (GSF), and, he has been elected member of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) as the global student representative. Peter has a strong passion for leadership, youth empowerment, and human rights.

Expertise: Defending Students' Rights and Children's Rights, Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions, Advocate for Student Centered Learning, Regional Integration, International Relations and Diplomacy, Women's Rights Advocate, Youth in Governance and Leadership.

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**Peter Kwasi
Kodjie**

4. Speakers' bios

David Lock has been Secretary-General of the Magna Charta Observatory since 2014. In particular he has led on the development and delivery of the MCO's strategy including the globalisation of the Observatory's work and the development of a self-evaluation instrument for university values.

He has had a varied career in international higher education and university leadership.

As Director of International Projects at the UK's Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, David was responsible for instigating and delivering projects with over 30 different countries, some at Governmental level.

Projects included major programmes for Rectors and Ministry Officials to implement national HE reform and autonomy strategies over several years and building partnerships between universities in different countries.

Until October 2007 David was the founding Registrar and Acting Chief Executive of the British University in Dubai where he structured, built and then led the University following its legal creation by the Ruler of Dubai as a not-for-profit provider of Higher Education to UK standards.

He continues to lead internationalisation and leadership development activities with Gulf organisations and the Association of Arab Universities.

Prior to going to Dubai David was Secretary to the University of Huddersfield and Registrar and Secretary to the University of Hull in the UK for a total of 14 years. A teacher and Chartered Secretary by background, David has served on a number of international bodies and undertaken a range of consultancy assignments including international development and UK HE governance projects. He chairs Gulf Education Conferences, served on the International Advisory Committee of the British Council and chairs the Education Committee of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in London.



David J.
Lock

4. Speakers' bios

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Dr Sijbolt Noorda is president emeritus of the University of Amsterdam, past president of the Association of Dutch Research Universities and a former board member of the European University Association.

Presently he is vice-president of the Board of International Baccalaureate, a member of the Conseil français de l'Intégrité Scientifique as well as a member of the international advisory boards of Amsterdam University College, Universität Tübingen, the Berlin University Alliance, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and ITMO University, St Petersburg. He is editor-in-chief of the Dutch-Flemish Journal for Higher Education *Th&ma*. He lectures and writes on higher education issues and regularly reviews Higher Education Institutions in the European Higher Education Area.

His mandate as Governing Council member started on June 14th, 2013 and his second mandate will expire on June 13th, 2021.



**Sijbolt
Noorda**

4. Speakers' bios

Jamil Salmi is a global tertiary education expert providing policy advice to governments, universities, professional associations, multilateral development banks and bilateral cooperation agencies. Until January 2012, he was the World Bank's tertiary education coordinator. In the past twenty-five years, Dr. Salmi has provided advice on tertiary education development, financing reforms and strategic planning to governments and university leaders in more than 100 countries all over the world.

Dr. Salmi is Emeritus Professor of higher education policy at Diego Portales University in Chile and Research Fellow at Boston College's Center for Higher Education. He is also a member of the International Quality Assurance Advisory Group, Emeritus Advisor on the President's Council at Olin College of Engineering, and chair of the Board of the Chilean EdTech startup u-planner.

Dr. Salmi's 2009 book addresses the "Challenge of Establishing World-Class Universities". His 2011 book, co-edited with Professor Phil Altbach, was entitled "The Road to Academic Excellence: the Making of World-Class Research Universities". His latest book, "Tertiary Education and the Sustainable Development Goals", was published in August 2017.

Jamil Salmi holds a Master in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a PhD in development studies from the University of Sussex.

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Jamil
Salmi

4. Speakers' bios

Dr Söderbergh Widding holds a Ph D in Cinema Studies from Stockholm University, 1992, where she is Professor of Cinema Studies since 2000. Since 2013, she is President of Stockholm University, where she has led the work with a Living Values pilot for the MCO in 2017-18. Dr Söderbergh Widding is a Fellow of Academia Europaea, of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. She is Chair of the Board for the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (the Swedish Rectors' conference) from 2019, and in this capacity also member of the EUA Council as well as of the EUA Research Policy working group. In addition, she is Chair of the BIBSAM consortium – responsible for the Swedish turn to open access and handling all deals with major publishing companies – since 2016 and member of the board of Aarhus University since 2018, as well as of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation since 2013.

Previous commissions include membership in the Swedish Government's Research Expert Group until 2020, chairmanship for the Principals Council of the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation until 2019, and an earlier chairmanship of the Ingmar Bergman Foundation until 2011, as well as memberships in several evaluation panels at the Swedish Research Council, the Academy of Finland, the Norwegian Research Council, the Danish Accreditation Institution, as well as board (or equivalent) memberships in the Supervisory Committee of the National Library of Sweden, of Letterstedska föreningen, the King Gustaf VI Adolf's Fund for Swedish Culture, Stockholm Environment Institute, Public and Science, the Swedish Fulbright Commission and the Swedish Film Institute.

She is Vice-President of the Governing Council (designate). Her mandate as Vice-President will start on June 13th 2021. Her mandate as Governing Council member started on November 19th, 2020 and it will expire on November 18th, 2024.

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**Astrid
Söderbergh
Widding**

4. Speakers' bios

Francesco Ubertini is Rector of the University of Bologna where he has been full professor of Mechanics of Solids and Structures since 2007. From 2007 to 2010 he held the position of Head of the Department of Structural Engineering, Transport, Public Works, and Surveying of the Territory (DISTART, now DICAM) at the University of Bologna. From 2010 to 2015 he was Head of the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering of DICAM and a member of the Academic Senate of the University of Bologna representing the Technological Area, and a member of the Research Group and the Internationalisation Group (2012-2015).

From 2013 to 2015, he was Vice President of UniAdrion and President of Fondazione Fibra – Fondazione culturale Italo Brasiliana (2016 - 2017), member of the Technical Committee on Computational Solid and Structural Mechanics, European Community on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences (2010 -2014) and coordinator of the Italian Group of Computational Mechanics (GIMC) and the Italian Association of Theoretical and Applied Mechatronics - AIMETA (2006 - 2013).

He is currently the President of the Federico Zeri Foundation, the Fanti Melloni Foundation, the Bologna Business School Foundation, and the Board of the Confucius Institute at the University of Bologna since 2015. He is also a member of the Board of Rectors of Una Europa University Alliance and of the European University Association. He was member of the council of the Observatory Magna Charta Universitatum for the four-year period 2016-2020. Since 2016, he has been President of Bononia University Press srl, President of Uniadrion (2017-2018) and member of the CRUI Board (Conference of Italian University Rectors).

His mandate as Governing Council member started on March 4th, 2016 and his second mandate will expire the 31st October, 2021.



**Francesco
Ubertini**

4. Speakers' bios

Dr. Hilligje van't Land serves the global higher education community as Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU) - global NGO with UNESCO Associate Status celebrating this year its 70th Anniversary. For the past two decades, she has fostered the key role of higher education in societal transformation. She supervises the overall programme activities of the IAU, develops the Association's strategic plans and oversees the everyday work of the secretariat. She positioned the IAU as partner in UNESCO work on Education for sustainable development and in the UNESCO Futures of Education initiative, and higher education as a key stakeholder for the UN Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world. Hilligje van't Land strongly believes in the importance of international cooperation and intercultural understanding and has developed multilateral projects related higher education and beyond.

She represents IAU in various working groups and expert committees including at the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the UN, including as member of the High Level Advisory Board to the UNESCO Futures of Education Initiative and Mission 4.7; the UNESCO ESD for 2030 Programme; the UNESCO and Bergen Expert Group on Universities and Sustainability; the Council of Europe (CoE) Ad hoc Working Group on the Local Mission of the University; the CoE Steering Committee for Best Practice Programme in Promoting Academic Integrity; the CoE Ad hoc Working Group on Competences for a Democratic Culture; the Advisory Board of UVED, OneHE and Sulitest; the Advisory Board of the Observatory of Academic Freedom (Soros Foundation).

Hilligje van't Land holds a PhD in comparative francophone literature, speaks six languages and published on higher education issues of relevance locally and globally. Most recent book as co-editor: Higher Educations Response to Covid 19.



Hilligje
van't Land

5. The Magna Charta Observatory

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The Magna Charta Observatory is the global guardian of fundamental university values and assists universities and higher education systems to operate effectively in accordance with them for the benefit of students, staff, society and universities themselves.

Over 900 universities from 86 countries have signed its statement of fundamental values since 1988.

The MCO supports a global community of universities through values. It assists universities pro-actively and through supportive actions when difficulties are encountered.

The MCO was founded by the University of Bologna and the European University Association. It is a non-profit organisation and is based in Bologna. It is funded by the University of Bologna and donations from signatories.

Why MCO is needed

The MCO provides assistance for universities who want to be at the forefront of understanding and implementation of the fundamental values.

It has developed the Living Values project which can be used by universities to enable them to put their values into practice more effectively.

MCO reviews and reports when circumstances do not allow universities to operate autonomously.

MCO helps Countries to enable their universities to be more aware of the significance of fundamental values for the development of their higher education systems.

MCO assists key stakeholders when fundamental values, especially academic freedom, are not being upheld.

MCO seeks to promote a deeper understanding of the importance of values and their operation in different contexts.

MCO helps universities learn from other situations that can enrich practice. As institutions operate more globally the importance of mutual understanding and shared values helps to build stronger partnerships through trust.

Autonomy is a journey - not a destination. Journeys have different starting points, progress at different speeds and experience different operational constraints.

MCO Strategic plan



[Click to read the Magna Charta Observatory strategy for 2020-2025](#)

6. The MCU 2020

The Observatory has prepared a new version of the Magna Charta Universitatum: the MCU 2020. The text (in English) has been adopted by the MCO's Governing Council.

The new MCU removes nothing from the original fundamental values to which universities signed up. It strives to be responsive to and resonate with contemporary challenges and concerns.

Its tone recognises that the pursuit of the fundamental values has worth along with their actual attainment, which, in practice, is a constant quest.

It recognises the more global nature of what universities do and the wider range of local responsibilities which they have.

The text of the MCU 2020 is here below.

Its formal launch has been delayed by the Covid -19 emergency but it will be launched globally at the MCO webinar on 16 and 17 June 2021.

Preamble

The Magna Charta Universitatum, a declaration and affirmation of the fundamental principles upon which the mission of universities should be based, was signed in 1988 on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna. The first principle was independence: research and teaching must be intellectually and morally independent of all political influence and economic interests. The second was that teaching and research should be inseparable, with students engaged in the search for knowledge and greater understanding. The third principle identified the university as a site for free enquiry and debate, distinguished by its openness to dialogue and rejection of intolerance.

The Magna Charta Universitatum recognised that universities upholding these principles could take many forms under the combined influence of culture, geography and history. Despite being explicitly the product of a specific moment in European development the document envisaged a networked world in which knowledge and influence should cross cultural boundaries in the pursuit of human understanding.

The logo for the Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 (MCU 2020). The letters 'MCU' are in a large, bold, dark red serif font. Below them, the year '2020' is written in a smaller, dark red, outlined serif font.

The world has since become interconnected in ways unimaginable at the time of the original declaration. Universities have proliferated around the globe, dramatically increasing in variety as well as scope and mission. Globally the number and diversity of students seeking a university education has increased, as have their reasons for doing so and the expectations of their families and communities. The number of publications has increased enormously while trust in academia is being eroded by a loss of confidence in expertise. In the sway of new technologies, modes of learning, teaching and research are changing rapidly; universities are both leading and responding to these developments.

Despite these changes, the potential of higher education to be a positive agent of change and social transformation endures. The principles laid out in the Magna Charta Universitatum are as valid today as they were in 1988, and they are the necessary precondition for human advancement through enquiry, analysis and sound action. The dramatic changes outlined above require the global academy to identify responsibilities and commitments that the signatories agree are vital to universities around the world in the Twenty-First Century. That is the reason for this new declaration.

Principles, Values and Responsibilities

Universities acknowledge that they have a responsibility to engage with and respond to the aspirations and challenges of the world and to the communities they serve, to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainability.

Intellectual and moral autonomy is the hallmark of any university and a precondition for the fulfilment of its responsibilities to society. That independence needs to be recognised and protected by governments and society at large, and defended vigorously by institutions themselves.

To fulfil their potential, universities require a reliable social contract with civil society, one which supports pursuit of the highest possible quality of academic work, with full respect for institutional autonomy.

As they create and disseminate knowledge, universities question dogmas and established doctrines and encourage critical thinking in all students and scholars. Academic freedom is their lifeblood; open enquiry and dialogue their nourishment.

Universities embrace their duty to teach and undertake research ethically and with integrity, producing reliable, trustworthy and accessible results.

Universities have a civic role and responsibility. They are part of global, collegial networks of scientific enquiry and scholarship, building on shared bodies of knowledge and contributing to their further development. They also are embedded in local cultures and crucially relevant to their future and enrichment. While they are immersed in and connected with global developments, they engage fully with and assume leading roles in local communities and ecosystems.

Universities are non-discriminatory spaces of tolerance and respect where diversity of perspectives flourishes and where inclusivity, anchored in principles of equity and fairness, prevails. They therefore commit themselves to advance equity and fairness in all aspects of academic life including admissions, hiring and promotion practices.

Education is a human right, a public good, and should be available to all. Universities recognise that learning is a lifelong activity with tertiary education as one part of a continuum. Within that one part, universities serve diverse learners at all stages of their lives.

Universities acknowledge that individuals and communities, often due to inequitable circumstances, have difficulty gaining access to higher education or influencing the modes and matter of academic study. To realise human potential everywhere, universities deliberately seek ways to welcome and engage with diverse voices and perspectives.

By signing the Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 universities declare their commitment to the original declaration and to upholding and advancing the Principles, Values and Responsibilities stated above, to strengthen the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity, and enlightenment around the world.

Approved by the Governing Council 12 March 2020

7. How to become a signatory of the MCU 2020

In order to apply to become a signatory of the MCU2020, you are kindly asked to read the Admission Policy, fill the Application Form that you can download from the MCO website (link for your convenience: <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/sign-the-magna-charta>) and email it with the following documents to the Magna Charta Observatory Administrator at magnacharta@unibo.it.

Documents to be attached:

- a) A formal request to become a signatory signed by the senior academic post holder (Rector, President or Vice-Chancellor)
- b) Evidence in the form of certified minutes from the senior academic body and the ultimate governing body that the application has their full support
- c) Statements of support from 3 universities, at least two of which should be outside their own country, which are already signatories of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

The Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory reviews requests to sign the MCU during its Winter and Spring meetings.

Applications submitted by 1 October 2021 will be considered in November. The next application date is 1 February 2022. It is anticipated that the next signing ceremony will be in September 2022 although universities accepted will be entitled to join MCO activities from the date of their acceptance.

The Application Form and the required documents have to be submitted in English.



8. Supporters of the MCO - 2021

The MCO thanks its supporters whose donations enable it to implement its strategy and serve universities



The MCO depends
on donations
to undertake
its work.

To make a
donation, please,
click here

9. MCO Contact details

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10.

Feedback

Thank you for attending our webinar: We hope you have appreciated it.

We would like to know your opinion, and we would be very thankful if you can reply to a few questions, that you can find here:

<https://forms.gle/tcUCJZTsdgJDtM7Z9>



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Thank you!

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS.**