Towards a Student Magna Charta

University Integrity - Society’s Benefit
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1. What is ESU?
2. Basic principles
3. Governance
4. Student rights
5. Teaching and learning
The European Students' Union (ESU) is an umbrella organisation of 47 National Unions of Students from 39 different countries. Through its members, ESU represents over 11 million students in Europe.

The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies.
Fundamental principles

• Higher education is a public good and a public responsibility

• Higher education institutions are democratic societal institutions

• Higher education institutions impart democratic values and train active citizens

• The university’s mission: teaching and research for society
Governance

• Modern collegiality
  • Partnership
  • Dialogue
• Student representation
• External representatives
Student rights

- Student academic freedom?

«Each university must—with due allowance for particular circumstances—ensure that its students freedoms are safeguarded, and that they enjoy concessions in which they can acquire the culture and training which it is their purpose to possess»

- Persecuted students

- Intellectual property rights

- Student representation
Teaching and learning processes

• Student-centred learning
  • Giving students more independence, but also responsibility in the learning process
  • Flexibility, choice
  • Support

• Students as co-producers of knowledge
  • Learning is a collaborative effort between teacher and student
  • Active learning: enabling, not telling
  • Research-based teaching and learning
Commodification, funding and autonomy

- Commercial interests in teaching and research
  - Research priorities and results
  - Curriculum
- Tuition fees
  - Elitism
- Students as consumers
Thank you!

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