



THE
VALUE
OF
VALUES





LIVING VALUES PROJECT

The MCO is developing a cost-effective instrument for universities to review their own values and the extent to which they are lived in practice. It will enable current positions and practices to be deeply challenged and decisions to be made about how they might deliver their values more effectively, better distinguish themselves, increase engagement with students, staff and stakeholders and achieve their mission more fully.

The instrument is designed to be globally applicable. After piloting, it will be made available internationally. It is anticipated that the sharing of experience from its use will enrich the evidence base concerning values and how they might be lived more effectively. This evidence will be featured in MCO publications and workshops.

THE MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY OF FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AND RIGHTS

The Magna Charta Universitatum celebrates the deepest values of University traditions and encourages strong bonds among Universities.

From the Magna Charta Universitatum:

Fundamental principles

1. The university is an autonomous institution at the heart of societies differently organised because of geography and historical heritage; it produces, examines, appraises and hands down culture by research and teaching.

To meet the needs of the world around it, its research and teaching must be morally and intellectually independent of all political authority and economic power.

2. Teaching and research in universities must be inseparable if their tuition is not to lag behind changing needs, the demands of society, and advances in scientific knowledge.

3. Freedom in research and training is the fundamental principle of university life, and governments and universities, each as far as in them lies, must ensure respect for this fundamental requirement.

4. A university is the trustee of the European humanist tradition; its constant care is to attain universal knowledge; to fulfil its vocation it transcends geographical and political frontiers, and affirms the vital need for different cultures to know and influence each other.

Full text can be found on the website

www.magna-charta.org

WHY VALUES MATTER

How have universities survived longer than most other organizations?
How might universities better meet the needs of their students, staff
and society?

How might they grow stronger?

By developing and living by sound values

Universities are now more important than ever before. The challenges
they face are greater and stronger.

Universities are coming under greater pressure:

the pace of change is faster,

global problems are more complex and larger scale,

solutions require greater innovation, interdisciplinarity, and

collaborations; political systems do not protect crucial academic

values and ideologies;

bureaucratic systems are rigid;

commercial sponsors seek undue influence.

It is a challenge to fundamental values of

academic freedom

institutional autonomy

integrity

Adherence to these values provides foundations which make

universities stronger in response.



THE MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY OF FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AND RIGHTS

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

Over 800 universities from 86 countries have signed its statement of fundamental values since 1988. Although founded by the University of Bologna and the European University Association it increasingly takes a global view. It is a non-profit organisation and is based in Bologna. It is funded by the University of Bologna and donations from signatories.

THE MCO'S PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

As the global guardian for fundamental university values the MCO assists universities and higher education systems to operate effectively in accordance with the values in modern ways.

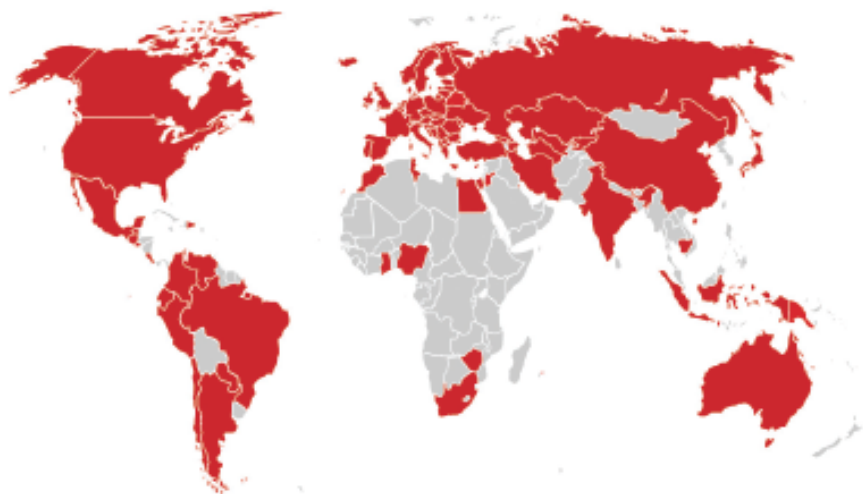
It sees autonomy is a journey - not a destination. Journeys have different starting points, progress at different speeds and experience different operational constraints.

The MCO therefore mounts workshops, conferences and researches and publishes to promote a deeper understanding of values and their operation in different contexts. It seeks to facilitate an international learning community of practice. It undertakes reviews and reports when circumstances do not allow universities to operate autonomously.

It aims to ascertain and share how values can lead to more successful universities. It plans to be more global, have more signatories and engage more closely with them in modern ways. It plans to monitor and advise more effectively and develop its Self-Evaluation Instrument for use globally.

It engages with kindred communities, is building on the respect that it already enjoys and enables universities which value values to be more successful.

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HOW CAN YOUR UNIVERSITY BECOME A SIGNATORY?

Full details on how to apply are at www.magna-charta.org
Applications will be assessed by the Council. Approved universities will be invited to sign the Magna Charta Universitatum at the next ceremony.

WHY SHOULD YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN UP?

By signing up to the fundamental values and putting them into practice universities make a profound public statement.

The MCO kitemark on your website is a sign that students, staff, stakeholders, universities and the whole society will trust. They can be sure of an experience that is founded on sound principles. Your university will become part of an international community of strength which would uphold and develop values.

Your university will benefit from MCO services such as publications, partnerships with kindred bodies, insight into how values can be safeguarded and developed and their policy implications, Council's and ambassadors' expertise, workshops and conferences designed to enhance the operation of your university and provide effective interaction with other universities.

By signing the Magna Charta Universitatum, your university's profile will be enhanced all over the world.





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More information about the MCO,
its Council, Secretariat, publications,
observations, events,
plans and world-wide community of
signatories can be found at
www.magna-charta.org

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