

The European Students' Union
REPRESENTING STUDENTS SINCE 1982



Towards a Student Magna Charta

University Integrity - Society's Benefit
Magna Charta Conference
Uppsala, 19. September 2014

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1. What is ESU?
2. Basic principles
3. Governance
4. Student rights
5. Teaching and learning

What is ESU?



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.



www.esu-online.org

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**

- **Modern collegiality**
 - **Partnership**
 - **Dialogue**
- **Student representation**
- **External representatives**

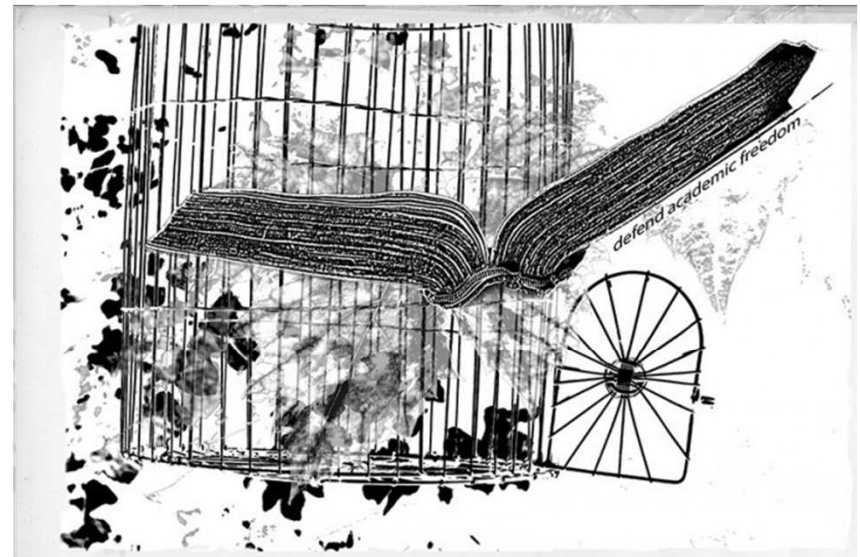
Student rights



- 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

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

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Thank you!

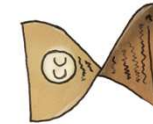
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