

MCO CONNECT



NEWS FROM THE MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY



MCO Connect - Issue 7, April 2023

Magna Charta Universitatum Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE:
**Universities and Re-Construction
of Cities: the Role of Research
and Education**

23-25.10.2023
University of Lodz, Poland



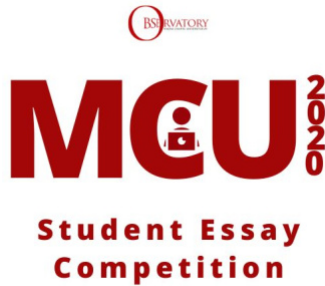
We would like to invite you all to save the date of this year's MCO anniversary, which will take place between 23-25th of October, at the University of Łódź, Poland. The theme of this year's anniversary is "Universities and the Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education." The theme covers reconstruction following different situations including war, technological and economic decline.

The event will feature renowned international speakers who will share their perspectives and insights on this topic, and lead discussions. Additionally, scholars from universities around the world will have the opportunity to meet and develop partnerships with representatives from Ukrainian and Polish universities in particular and participate in a diverse range of focused small-group discussions. The event will culminate in a solemn ceremony featuring the signing of the Magna Charta by universities committed to the principles of the Magna Charta Universitatum

More details about the programme will be announced soon.

More about MCO 2023 Anniversary

Student Essay Competition to be launched



Students Leading University Community Engagement: what more can be done and how should it be recognized?

The 1988 and 2020 versions of the Magna Charta Universitatum emphasize the significant role of students in universities. The Magna Charta Observatory (MCO), which has student representatives on its governing council, aims to enhance student involvement in universities and increase its effectiveness.

To achieve this goal, the MCO, in partnership with Global Students Forum and the European Students' Union, is launching an essay competition for students. The competition seeks to gather ideas from students on how they can exert greater influence in enabling their universities to make a more impactful contribution to society. The MCO hopes to share the insights gained from this competition with universities to enhance student involvement and promote positive societal outcomes.

There will be 5 prizes of expenses paid participation (including travel and accommodation costs) in the MCO's 2023 Anniversary Conference which will be held from 23 – 25 October in Lodz, Poland at which the winners will present their essays and participate in discussions with an international audience.

The competition will be launched at an MCO webinar on 04 May 2023. The competition is open to registered students in any university in any country. The closing date for the submission of essays is 12 June 2023. The winners will be announced on 28 July 2023.

For more information about the competition and to sign up for the webinar click in the link below:

[More details](#)

MCO members out and about

In this section we share information about the main events and activities organised by MCO or in which members of the MCO participated in recent weeks.



The Responsive and Responsible University- Informational webinar about MCO Research Project, Online, January

The online event organized by MCO discussed the newly created research project of Magna Charta Observatory and universities were invited to be part of this important and timely relevant project. During this webinar chaired by Professor Giga Zedania, Chair of the MCO's research committee, the objectives, aim and conceptual framework of the project were presented. At the end, the participants had the opportunity to ask questions.

Click below for more details and to access the recording of the event.

Details and recording



The roots of academic freedom- Underlying values and human rights perspectives- Online, February

On 16 February 2023, the Magna Charta Observatory held a webinar exploring the nature of academic freedom as a human right. Speakers discussed the nature of academic freedom and the legal protections available for it.

Academic freedom is addressed differently in various regions of the world, with the United Kingdom treating it as a matter of convention, the United States recognizing it as a fundamental right under the Constitution, and European constitutions referring to freedom of science. While international human rights law does not explicitly recognize academic freedom, it could potentially fall under provisions for the right to science, freedom of expression, and/or the right to education.

The speakers emphasized the importance of academic freedom in creating an enabling environment for learning and scientific progress and its role in promoting human dignity.

Details and recording



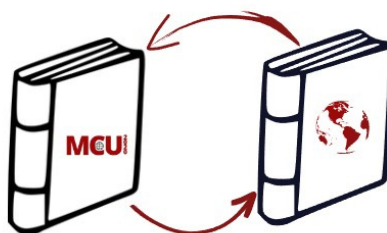
MCO at AArU General Conference 2023- The case for student involvement in university governance- March-

During the 2023 General Assembly of the Association of Arab Universities, David Lock, Secretary General of the Magna Charta Observatory, delivered a presentation highlighting the importance of student involvement in university governance. The presentation was prompted by the observation that many Arab universities exhibit lower levels of student engagement in governance compared to their counterparts in other regions.

During his presentation, Mr. Lock explained how student representation in governance can be beneficial to universities, as students can serve as excellent ambassadors for universities and assist with their engagement in society, social responsibility, and promoting access. Their involvement in strategic planning should also improve its quality and enhance the reputation of the university. From the perspective of students, engagement would facilitate the development of skills and attributes such as representation, communication, confidence and engagement, among other benefits.

[Read more here](#)

Call for translations



The Living Values project is a web-based project created by Magna Charta Observatory to assist higher education institutions in identifying, adopting, and implementing values that align with their mission and facilitate engagement with their community. By involving stakeholders in reviewing and



MCO at IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA Conference 2023-March

The IFEES/GEDC Higher Education Engineering Conference was hosted by EPOKA University in Albania from March 28-30, 2023. The 2023/IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA conference welcomed participation from academics, industry leaders, researchers, students, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations, providing them with an opportunity to share experiences, strategies, research, technology, and products with their peers.

At the event, MCO Secretary General David Lock introduced Magna Charta Universitatum and discussed the role of universities in society, and the need for universities to respond to the challenges of the world and contribute to sustainability. David also participated in a roundtable discussion and facilitated a workshop on the theme of fundamental values as the basis of a reliable social contract with civil society.

Details

articulating these values, the project seeks to foster greater trust and engagement between the institution and its staff, students, and other stakeholders.

The project was created with the support of higher educational professionals with extensive leadership experience, and piloted in ten universities in nine different countries.

To expand the project's global reach and support its goals, we are looking for volunteers to translate the Living Values documents prospectus currently available only in English, to the other 5 UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. These translations will help to make the project accessible to universities around the world.

Do you have experience with translation and are interested in doing contributing to the project? Please send an email to magnacharta@unibo.it with the subject Translation- Language X and brief details of who will be involved in the translation.



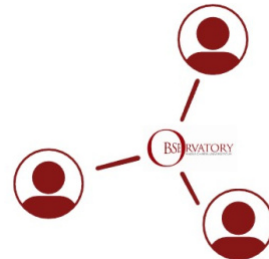
More about the Living Values project

Universities wishing to engage with the Living Values project can find our guidelines, the Living Values tool box, FAQ and more details at our website or by clicking below

About the Living Values project and how to participate

MCO Update

To enhance our connection to the universities, strengthen the university network and ensure that you are kept informed about Magna Charta Observatory's activities, we have been updating the registries of all signatory universities. To collaborate with this process we kindly ask the university representatives to fill the form available in the link below:



[Update form](#)



Signing the MCU 2020

More than 950 Universities in 94 different countries have already publicly embraced the fundamental principles and values set out in the Magna Charta Universitatum, which include the autonomy of academic institutions, the central importance of academic freedom and the responsibilities of universities to serve society.

If your university embraces these principles and values and is not yet a signatory, why not join this worldwide community to participate in our activities and share with and enable universities around the world?

Becoming a signatory is free of charge and there is no annual subscription to remain so. If your university has yet to sign the MCU 2020, we invite you to apply for signatory status and attend the annual signing ceremony. This year's ceremony will be held in-person at the University of Łódź on 25 October.

Please apply until June 15th, 2023 following the procedure on the MCO website, which you can find in the link below.

We are looking forward to your application! If the Rector of your University has already virtually signed the MCU2020, he/she can also make it in person at the MCU Anniversary in Lodz. Registration and information will be soon online. Stay tuned!

Apply to become a MCO member

Magna Charta Observatory
magnacharta@unibo.it
www.magna-charta.org



Communication Specialist Wanted

The MCO is looking for a communication specialist to help us deliver our strategy and engage more closely with signatories through the production of external publications, managing our social media accounts, supporting the organisation of events and communication plans.

This provides an opportunity for a signatory university to second a capable member of their communications team to gain global experience from working with the MCO.

The role can be performed remotely and expenses will be paid for the post-holder to travel to MCO events. There can be flexibility in the percentage of time devoted to the role and how it is fulfilled. The international experience gained will be immense and the benefit to the seconding university could be considerable.

If you have a member of staff whom you think may benefit from such an opportunity, please email our Administrator on magnacharta@unibo.it

More about MCO

Email sent to

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you wish to receive it regularly, [please join our mailing list](#) .

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