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### **Discussing the war in Ukraine, research and putting university values in practice**

After two years of enforced meeting via Zoom it was a great pleasure to work with members of the Governing Council in person in Bologna last month. Many members were attending their first physical meeting of the Council and as the work of the Observatory had continued throughout the pandemic there was a great deal to discuss.

We were concerned about the situation in Ukraine, where 87 universities have signed the Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU). It was pleasing that MCU signatory universities in other countries had responded so positively to the MCO's statement of solidarity and call for help for staff and students in Ukraine's universities.

[2 minutes to read]

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### **UPCOMING WEBINAR: Academic Freedom roots and realities**

Much is spoken and written about academic freedom. It is one of the fundamental tenets of the Magna Charta Universitatum. It is under attack in various countries around the globe. Surveys have shown that many academics don't know the policy of their university on academic freedom. So what are the roots of academic freedom, and how are universities to promote and preserve this fundamental right and responsibility in practice?

Join us for this free webinar on May 11 that will look at what academic freedom is and why it is important. It will look at its roots in global documents and how these are being put into practice in universities around the world. It will also focus on academic freedom from the perspectives of institutional leaders and academic staff.

**REGISTER HERE**



## **Magna Charta at Association of Arab Universities General Assembly**

The MCO Secretary General, David Lock, gave a keynote address at the General Assembly of the Association of Arab Universities in Jordan in March.

The Association of Arab Universities operates within the framework of the Arab League and comprises some 500 universities from 22 countries where Arabic is the main language. Its vision is to strengthen, reinforce the quality of and transform higher education and research to address challenges and realize a prosperous future for graduates. It is an outward looking body with links to universities in Europe and other parts of the world.

[2 minutes to read]

**Read more ...**

## **In case you missed it ...**



**MCO NEWS UPDATE**

### **Standing with Ukraine and Turkey**

The Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) was most concerned to learn that the Russian Union of Rectors (RUR) had issued a statement on 5 March stating their support for the decision of President Putin to take military action in Ukraine.

As such, the MCO has decided to suspend nine Russian universities that have signed the RUR letter from MCO activities as this support is incompatible with the pledges that they made by signing the Magna Charta Universitatum. [Read the statement](#) for more details.

The Magna Charta Observatory has 87 signatory universities in Ukraine and stands with them and with all universities in Ukraine at this time. [Read our statement](#).

The MCO continues to be concerned about the violation of the autonomous operation of universities in Turkey and issued this [statement](#).



**NOW HIRING**

### **Coming soon - Research Assistant opportunity**

Be sure to follow the Magna Charta Observatory on [LinkedIn](#) for details of a very exciting opportunity to be posted soon for a Research Assistant.



## Welcome to new members of the Governing Council

The MCO welcomes two new members to its Governing Council, [Prof. Raffaella Campaner](#), Vice-Rector, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna and [Prof. Cristina Demaria](#), Vice-Rector, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna. They both began a four-year term in March.

### Governing Council Members

## Sign the MCU 2020

More than 900 universities around the globe signed the original 1988 Magna Charta Universitatum, however not all of those original signatories have signed the new **MCU 2020** to declare their support of the responsibilities, values and principles outlined in the document.

It is free to sign the MCU 2020 and signatories join a worldwide consortium of universities dedicated to upholding the principles of academic freedom, autonomy, research, education and the pursuit of strengthening the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and to promote health, prosperity and enlightenment around the world.

If your university has not signed the MCU 2020, you are [invited to apply](#) to become a signatory and attend the annual signing ceremony, to be held in-person at the University of Bologna this coming September.

**Learn more ...**



Save the Date

Anniversary of the  
Magna Charta  
Universitatum

14th - 16th September 2022

Bologna, Italy

## We want to hear from you!

To help us prepare our program for our anniversary event and conference, we would like you to answer the following question:

**Which topics would your University be most interested to discuss ?**

[Post your response](#)

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