

Charter of Incorporation

Elizabeth The Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting;

Whereas a Humble Petition has been presented to Us by The University College of Hull praying Us to constitute and found a University within the City and County of Kingston upon Hull for the Advancement of Knowledge, the Diffusion and Extension of Arts, Sciences and Learning, the Provision of Liberal, Professional and Technological Education and the furtherance of the objects for which the University College of Hull was incorporated as a Company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts 1908 to 1917 on the seventh day of October in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven and to grant a Charter with such provisions in that behalf as shall seem to Us right and suitable;

And whereas we have taken the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration and are minded to accede thereto;

Now therefore know ye that We by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative and of Our Special Grace, Certain Knowledge and Mere Motion have willed and ordained and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors do will and ordain as follows:

1. The University of Hull

There shall be and there is hereby constituted and founded in Our said City of Kingston upon Hull a University by the name and style of The University of Hull.

2. Objects of the University

The objects of the University shall be to advance education, scholarship, knowledge and understanding by teaching and research, for the benefit of individuals and society at large.

3. Powers of the University

The University shall be both a teaching and an examining body and shall subject to this Charter, and the Statutes and Ordinances, have the following powers:

- (a) Under conditions laid down in its Statutes or Ordinances to award Degrees, and grant Diplomas and Certificates, awards and other academic qualifications to and on persons who shall have pursued an approved course of study in the University and shall have passed the examinations or other assessments prescribed by the University provided that at least one External and Independent Examiner shall be appointed by Senate for examinations in each subject or group of subjects forming part of the course of studies required for University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and Awards excluding the examinations for admission in the University.

- (b) To award Honorary Degrees and other distinctions on approved persons provided that all Degrees and other distinctions so awarded shall be awarded and held subject to any provisions which are or may be made in reference thereto by the Statutes, Ordinances or Regulations of the University.
- (c) To award joint degrees and other academic awards with other institutions.
- (d) To award Honorary Degrees and other distinctions with other institutions.
- (e) On what the University shall deem to be good cause to deprive persons of any Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, Awards or Qualifications granted to or conferred upon them by the University.
- (f) To provide instruction in such branches of learning as the University may think fit and to make provision for research and for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge whether through Faculties or otherwise as the University may determine.
- (g) To accept the examinations and periods of study passed by students of the University at other universities or places of learning as equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University as the University may determine and to withdraw such acceptance at any time.
- (h) To affiliate other institutions or branches or departments thereof or to recognise selected members of the staffs thereof as teachers of the University or to admit the members thereof to any of the privileges of the University and to accept attendance at courses of study in such institutions or branches or departments thereof in place of such part of the attendance at courses of study in the University and upon such terms and conditions and subject to such Regulations as may from time to time be determined by the University.
- (i) To examine and inspect schools and other educational institutions and to co-operate by means of Joint Boards or otherwise with other University authorities for the conduct of examinations, for the examination and inspection of schools and other academic institutions and for such other purposes as the University may from time to time determine.
- (j) To enter into any agreement for the incorporation in the University of any other institution and for taking over its rights, property and liabilities and for any other purpose not contradictory to this Our Charter.
- (k) To employ staff in such positions as may be required and to prescribe their conditions of service.
- (l) To institute Professorships, Readerships, Senior Lectureships, Lectureships and any other offices required by the University and to appoint to such offices.
- (m) To institute and award Fellowships, Studentships, Scholarships, Exhibitions, Bursaries and Prizes.
- (n) To establish and maintain and to administer and govern institutions for the residence of the students of the University whether Colleges, Halls or Houses and to license and supervise such institutions and other places of residence whether maintained by the University or not.
- (o) To make provision for research and advisory services and with such provision to enter into arrangements with other institutions or with public bodies as may be thought desirable.
- (p) To provide for the printing and publication of research and other works which may be issued by the University.
- (q) To demand and receive fees.

- (r) To act as trustees or managers of any property, endowment, legacy, bequest or gift for purposes of education or research or otherwise in furtherance of the work and welfare of the University which can legally be transferred to the University and to invest any funds representing such property, endowment, legacy, bequest or gift if not immediately required on such security as the University may think fit. Provided always that moneys subject or representing property subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales shall only be invested in such securities and with such sanction (if any) as may for the time being be prescribed by law.
- (s) To do all such other acts and things whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not as may be requisite in order to further the objects of the University as a place of education and of learning.

4. The Council

There shall be a Council of the University which subject to the Statutes of the University shall be the governing body of the University and shall have the custody and use of the Common Seal, the management and administration of the whole revenue and property of the University and the conduct of all the affairs of the University and all such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon it by Statute or Ordinance.

5. Powers of the Council

Council shall exercise all such powers as are or may be conferred on Council by the Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations and carry them into effect and shall, in particular, have power to:

1. review the work of the University and take such steps as it thinks proper for the purpose of advancing the interests of the University, maintaining its efficiency, encouraging teaching, the pursuit of learning and the provision of research, after considering a report of Senate in academic matters;
2. ensure the establishment, monitoring and review of systems of control and accountability including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest;
3. appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair, Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellors;
4. appoint the Vice-Chancellor, and a Secretary to Council;
5. appoint an Auditor or Auditors;
6. appoint the lay and Class 4 members of Council;
7. provide for the welfare of all persons in the employment of the University or formerly in such employment or their dependants or relatives including the payment of money, pensions or other payments and to subscribe to benevolent and other funds for the benefit of such persons;
8. govern and regulate the finances, accounts, investments, property, business and all affairs whatsoever of the University, and for that purpose to appoint bankers and any other officers or agents whom it may deem expedient to appoint;

9. enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the University;
10. act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University;
11. invest any money belonging to the University in such stocks, funds, fully paid shares or securities as Council shall from time to time think fit whether within the United Kingdom or not or in the purchase of freehold or leasehold hereditaments in the United Kingdom including rents; provided that in the case of moneys held by the University as trustees the powers conferred by this paragraph shall be exercised subject to the provisions of the law relating to investment by trustees;
12. sell, buy, exchange, lease and accept leases of real and personal estate on behalf of the University;
13. provide the buildings, premises, furniture and apparatus and other means needed for carrying on the work of the University;
14. borrow money on behalf of the University and for that purpose if Council thinks fit to mortgage or charge all or any part of the estate of the University whether real or personal and to give such other security as Council thinks fit;
15. establish, abolish, combine or subdivide Faculties in consultation with Senate;
16. determine, after considering the recommendation of Senate, all University fees;
17. refer to Senate the names of persons proposed as recipients of Honorary Degrees (and Honorary Degrees awarded jointly with other higher education institutions having power to grant Honorary Degrees) and to approve or disapprove the names of persons proposed by Senate as recipients of such Degrees provided that no person shall be admitted by the University to an Honorary Degree whose name has not been approved for that purpose both by Council and by Senate;
18. review, refer back, control, amend or disallow any act of Senate and give direction to Senate provided that any act of Senate which is amended by Council shall be referred again to Senate for consideration and report before being carried into effect;
19. provide for the welfare of the Students;
20. expel any Student found or proved to have been guilty of grave misconduct and consider and adjudicate upon every appeal made by a Student from a decision of Senate under the Ordinances;
21. select a Seal, Arms and Mace for the University and have the sole custody and use of the Seal;
22. make proposals to add to, amend or alter the Charter;
23. make Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;

24. take any lawful action which it reasonably considers to be in the best interests of the University and on which the Charter and Statutes are silent, provided that at the first opportunity consideration is then given to amending the Charter and Statutes to make proper provision for such action in future.

6. Delegation of Council Powers

The Council has the following powers which may not be delegated:

- (i) to appoint and dismiss the Vice-Chancellor;
- (ii) to approve the annual budget;
- (iii) to amend the Charter under the provisions of Article 16;
- (iv) to make University Statutes or Ordinances;
- (v) to adopt the University's Annual Accounts;
- (vi) to appoint the University's Auditors;
- (vii) to appoint a Redundancy Committee in accordance with the Statutes.

7. Composition of the Council

1. Council membership is as follows:

Lay Members

Class 1. The Chair of Council.

Class 2. Up to twelve lay members appointed by Council.

Non Lay Members

Class 3. The Vice-Chancellor, a Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Finance Officer.

Class 4. Four members of Senate appointed by Council in accordance with Ordinances.

Class 5. One member elected by and from non-academic members of staff.

Class 6. The President for the time being of the Union of Students of the University, provided that this person is a registered student of the University.

2. Members of Council included in Classes 1 and 3 shall hold office while they occupy the positions named respectively.
3. Members of Council included in Classes 2, 4 and 5 shall hold office for three years or for such shorter period as the appointing or nominating Bodies may determine.
4. All casual vacancies shall be filled by the Body which appointed or nominated the representative whose place has become vacant provided that any person appointed or nominated to fill a casual vacancy shall be appointed only for the remainder of the period for which the person whose place has become vacant was appointed.

5. Except under Classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 no member of the academic or non-academic staff of the University or student registered for a full-time degree, diploma or certificate or award of the University shall be a member of Council.
6. Members shall not normally serve for a maximum period of more than three terms of three years.
7. Any member of Council may resign at any time in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Council.
8. The quorum for meetings of Council shall be one-fifth of the total membership and lay members shall comprise a majority of those in attendance. No business shall be transacted in the absence of a quorum.
9. Four members shall be appointed by Council under Class 4 as set out in the Ordinances.
10. A roll of the persons eligible for election and of those entitled to vote shall be kept by the Registrar and Secretary and shall be conclusive evidence that any person whose name appears therein at the time of claiming to vote, or of being elected, is entitled to vote or be elected as the case may be and that any person whose name does not appear therein is not so entitled.
11. The election shall be held at a date to be fixed by the Registrar and Secretary as Returning Officer.
12. Voting shall be by ballot and candidature shall be on the nomination of not less than three electors.

8. The Senate

There shall be a Senate of the University which shall have delegated authority from the Council to oversee the academic work of the University, the enhancement of academic quality and assurance of academic standards, and the regulation of student discipline, and which shall have the composition, powers and functions conferred on it in the Ordinances.

9. The Students' Union

There shall be a Union of Students of the University whose constitution shall be approved by the Council. Ordinances shall prescribe the constitution, function, privileges and other matters relating to the Union of Students.

10. Hull Alumni Association

There shall be a Hull Alumni Association of the University.

11. The Chancellor

There shall be a Chancellor of the University who shall be the Chief Officer of the University.

12. The Pro-Chancellors

There shall be Pro-Chancellors of the University who shall subject to the Statutes of the University in the absence of the Chancellor or pending a vacancy in the office of Chancellor exercise all the functions of the Chancellor.

13. The Vice-Chancellor

There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the University. The Vice-Chancellor shall be the ex-officio Chair of Senate and shall in the absence of the Chancellor or Pro-Chancellors award degrees.

14. Pro-Vice-Chancellors

There shall be one or more Pro-Vice-Chancellors of the University who shall subject to the Ordinances of the University act for the Vice-Chancellor during a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chancellor or during the absence or inability of the Vice-Chancellor.

15. The Charter

Council may at any time alter, amend or add to this Charter and such alteration, amendment or addition shall when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council by and with the advice of Our Privy Council become effectual so that these Presents shall henceforward continue and operate as though they had been originally granted and made as so altered, amended or added to in the manner aforesaid.

16. The Statutes

Council may make new or additional Statutes which govern and regulate the affairs, business, work and interests of the University and contain all such provisions as Council deems fit with respect to the governing of the University, its constituent parts and Members or to promote the objects of this Charter and add to, amend, alter or repeal the Statutes and the power to make Statutes shall not be limited by the first or any subsequent Statutes. Provided that no such Statutes shall have effect until approved by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our said Privy Council shall be conclusive evidence.

17. Regulations

Council and Senate respectively may from time to time make regulations for governing the proceedings of those bodies. The power to make regulations shall include the power to add to, amend, alter or repeal any existing regulations.

18. Gifts

The University shall not make any dividend, gift, division or bonus money unto or between any of its members except by way of prize, reward or special grant.

19. Academic Freedom

Academic staff shall have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges.

20. Visitor

We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings and Queens of the Kingdom, Realms and Territories aforesaid shall be and remain the Visitor and Visitors of the University through the Lord President of Our Council for the time being and in exercise of the Visitorial Authority We, Our Heirs and Successors shall have the right from time to time and in such manner as We or They shall think fit to direct an inspection of the University, its buildings, laboratories and general equipment and also an enquiry into the teaching, research, assessments and other work done by the University.

21. Definitions

'Statutes' means the existing Statutes and any Statutes altering, amending, adding to or repealing the same 'Ordinances' means Acts of the Council under the powers conferred by this Our Charter to which Our further sanction is not hereby or by Statute required. 'Regulations' except when otherwise required by the context means Regulations made pursuant to this Our Charter or to the Statutes.

- 22.** Our Royal Will and pleasure is that these Presents shall ever be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the University and the promotion of the objects of this Our Charter.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster the Sixth day of September in the Third year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual.