



Brunel
University
London



THE CHARTER OF BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON

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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 WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS by a Charter dated the ninth day of June 1966 Brunel University was incorporated with perpetual succession and a Common Seal:

AND WHEREAS a Petition has been presented unto Us by the Council of the University humbly praying that We would be graciously pleased to grant it a Supplemental Charter in order to modernise its constitutional provisions and provide for a change of name of the University:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We, having taken the said Petition into Our Royal consideration by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have granted and declared and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and declare as follows:-

1. The Charter of 1966, except insofar as it continues in force the incorporation of the University, and the conferring of perpetual succession and a common seal, shall be and is hereby revoked, but nothing in this revocation shall affect the legality or validity of any act, deed, or thing lawfully done or executed under the provisions of the said Charter.
2. The corporation created by the Charter of 1966 shall be known as Brunel University London (“the University”) formerly known as “Brunel University”.

3. Objects

The objects of the University are to advance education, learning and research for the public benefit (“the Objects”).

4. Powers

The University shall have all the powers of a natural person including but not limited to the following powers, in furtherance of the Objects and so far as permitted by charity law:

- 4.1 to award degrees and other academic or honorary awards and to revoke such awards;
- 4.2 to grant titles and distinctions including fellowships, memberships and associateships and to revoke the same;
- 4.3 to acquire, own, maintain, manage and dispose of land and other property;
- 4.4 to solicit, receive and administer fees, charges, grants, subscriptions, donations, endowments, legacies, gifts and loans of any property whatsoever whether land or personal property and any other sources of income;
- 4.5 to act as trustee for and in relation to endowments, legacies and gifts;
- 4.6 to invest;
- 4.7 to give guarantees;
- 4.8 to borrow and raise money and give security for loans, and for those purposes the University shall have the authority to enter into any financial instrument which is ancillary or incidental to the exercise of such powers;
- 4.9 to take such steps as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purposes of procuring and receiving contributions to the funds of the University and to raise money in such other manner as the University may determine;
- 4.10 to co-operate and collaborate with other institutions and individuals, award joint degrees or other awards, and affiliate or incorporate into the University any other institution and take over its property, rights, liabilities and staff;

- 4.11 to enter into engagements and to accept obligations and liabilities in all respects without any restrictions whatsoever and in the same manner as an individual may manage his or her own affairs; and
- 4.12 to do anything else, whether incidental to these powers or not, in order to further the Objects of the University as a place of teaching and research.

5. The Council

There shall be a Council of the University which shall be the University's governing body with ultimate responsibility for the management of the University and the conduct of all its affairs. The Council shall exercise all of the University's powers and shall make ordinances to govern its procedures ("Ordinances").

6. Council Delegation

The Council may delegate all or any of its powers and functions to any appropriately qualified person or body within the University provided that the Council shall not delegate any of the following:

- 6.1 the appointment, dismissal and terms and conditions of employment of the Vice-Chancellor;
- 6.2 the appointment of auditors;
- 6.3 the approval of the University's strategic plan;
- 6.4 the approval of the University's financial forecasts and annual budget;
- 6.5 the approval of the University's annual audited accounts; or
- 6.6 the variation, amendment or revocation of the Charter, Statutes or Ordinances of the University.

7. Composition of Council

The Council shall consist of the following:

- 7.1 a minimum of fifteen and no more than twenty five members;
- 7.2 a majority of "independent members" being neither current employees nor students of the University, of whom one shall be the Chair of Council and one, the Deputy Chair of Council;
- 7.3 the Vice Chancellor as an ex officio member;
- 7.4 at least one and no more than five members of the senior staff of the University as appointed to Council in accordance with the Ordinances, at least one of whom shall be a member of Senate;
- 7.5 at least one and no more than two employees of the University appointed in accordance with the Ordinances;
- 7.6 at least one and no more than two members appointed by and from amongst the students of the University.

8. Council Terms of Office

- 8.1 The independent members of the Council shall hold office for a period of four calendar years and shall, other than as prescribed in Article 8.6 and Article 8.7, be eligible only for re-appointment on one further occasion for up to four years.
- 8.2 The Vice Chancellor shall hold office as a member of Council for so long as s/he continues to occupy his/her respective position unless otherwise removed by the Council.

- 8.3 A member of Council appointed under Article 7.4 shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment provided in the case of the member of Senate, no such member shall serve for more than eight years in aggregate and that such member shall cease to be a member of the Council on the date that their membership of the Senate ceases should this date occur before the end of their term of office as a member of the Council.
- 8.4 A member of Council appointed under Article 7.5 shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment on one further occasion; provided that such member shall cease to be a member of Council on the date they cease to be an employee of the University.
- 8.5 A member of Council appointed under Article 7.6 shall hold office for such period as the Council may determine subject always to a maximum term of office of two years.
- 8.6 The Chair of Council shall hold office for such period as the Council may determine and shall be eligible for re-appointment, subject always to a maximum period of membership of Council of twelve years, with eight years as Chair.
- 8.7 The Deputy Chair of Council shall hold office for such a period as the Council may determine and shall be eligible for re-appointment, subject always to a maximum period of membership of Council of ten years, with four years as Deputy Chair.

9. Council Quorum and Decision Making

- 9.1 Seven members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, of which a majority shall always be independent members.
- 9.2 Decisions taken at any meeting of Council, Senate or any committee of such bodies (a “decision making body”) shall not be invalidated because of:
- 9.2.1 a procedural defect of which the decision making body is unaware at the time, provided that the defect, once identified, is at the earliest reasonable opportunity brought to the attention of the decision making body and the decision making body is asked to consider whether the decision should stand;
- 9.2.2 a technical defect in the appointment of a member of which the decision making body is unaware at the time;
- 9.2.3 a technical defect in the giving of notice of which the decision making body is unaware at the time; or
- 9.2.4 a vacancy in the membership of the relevant decision making body.

10. Officers of the University

There shall be such officers of the University as the Council shall determine, including but not limited to:

- 10.1 the Chancellor;
- 10.2 the Vice-Chancellor, who shall be the president and principal academic and administrative officer of the University;
- 10.3 up to five individuals with the title Deputy Vice Chancellor (or equivalent) who shall assist the Vice Chancellor in the performance of his/her role; and
- 10.4 the secretary to Council

and whose respective powers and functions shall be set out in the Ordinances.

11. Senate

There shall be a senate of the University (“the Senate”), which subject to the general control and approval of the Council, shall be responsible for the academic standards of the University and the regulation of academic matters. The membership and powers of the Senate shall be prescribed in the Ordinances.

12. Students’ Union

There shall be a union of the students of the University (“Students’ Union”) which shall conduct and manage its own affairs and funds in accordance with a constitution approved by the Council.

13. Freedom of Speech and Fair and Equal Treatment

13.1 Academic staff of the University shall have freedom within the law both to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing themselves at risk of losing their jobs or privileges.

13.2 The University shall be committed to the fair and equal treatment of every person and shall not discriminate on unjustified, irrelevant or unlawful grounds.

14. Property and Assets

The property and funds of the University shall be used only for promoting the Objects. If the University is dissolved, the assets (if any) remaining after providing for all its liabilities shall be applied in one or more of the following ways:

14.1 by transfer to one or more other bodies established for exclusively charitable purposes within, the same as or similar to the Objects;

14.2 directly for the Objects or for charitable purposes which are within or similar to the Objects; or

14.3 in such other manner consistent with charitable status as the Privy Council approves in writing in advance.

15. Amendment to the Charter and Statutes

15.1 The Council may, subject to approval by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, amend, add to, or repeal this Our Charter by a resolution passed at a Council meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of those present and voting.

15.2 The Council may, subject to approval by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, amend, add to, or repeal the Statutes by a resolution passed at a Council meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of those present and voting.

16. Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that this Our Charter shall be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the University and the promotion of the Objects.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN’S SIGN MANUAL

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