

THE CHARTER

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 an humble Petition has been presented unto Us by Our most dearly beloved Mother, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Chancellor of Our University of London, Our trusty and well beloved Sir Frank Hartley, Knight, Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, formerly Vice Chancellor of the University of London, the Delegacy of University of London King's College and the Corporation of King's College London, praying that We should be graciously pleased to grant a Charter to King's College London which was founded by Charter granted on the fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine by His Majesty King George the Fourth:

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of King's College London was incorporated by the said Charter of 1829 and (notwithstanding the annulment of that Charter by the King's College London Act 1882) remained incorporated by virtue of that Act and subsequently by virtue of the King's College London (Transfer) Act 1908:

AND WHEREAS the King's College London Act 1978 received Our Assent on the twentieth day of July 1978 and whereas that Act will not come into operation unless and until a Charter is granted consequent upon the said Petition:

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 Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have willed and ordained and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, will and ordain as follows: –

1. In this Our Charter and in the Statutes except where the context otherwise requires –

“the College” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 2 hereof;

“the Council” means the Council of the College established by Article 5 hereof;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“Ordinances” means Ordinances made by the Council in accordance with the Charter and Statutes;

“Regulations” means Regulations made by the Council or other such authority as delegated by the Council in accordance with the Charter and Statutes;

“the Principal and President” means the person who holds the office of Principal and President of the College established by Article 6 hereof;

“Special Resolution” means a resolution passed at one meeting of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council and confirmed at a subsequent such meeting held not less than one calendar month nor more than three calendar months after the former meeting where written notice of each meeting and of the object of the meeting has been given to each member of the Council not less than fourteen clear days before the date fixed for the meeting and the resolution has been passed at each meeting by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting;

“the Statutes” means the Statutes referred to in Article 11 hereof;

Words importing the masculine gender shall, where necessary, be construed as importing the feminine and words importing the singular number shall, where necessary, be construed as importing the plural and vice-versa.

2. (1) The Corporation of King's College London, hereinafter referred to as “the College”, shall forever hereafter be one body corporate and politic by the name and style of King's College London with perpetual succession.
- (2) The College shall hereafter consist of those persons who are for the time being the members of the Council, the Fellows, the staff and students of the College and of such other persons as may be included by or under the provisions of this our Charter, the Statutes and Ordinances and Regulations.

- (3) The College though a fully autonomous institution in its own right is also a constituent college of the University of London.
3. (1) The objects of the College shall be to advance education and promote research for the public benefit. In so doing the College shall have regard both to its Anglican tradition and the diverse beliefs and backgrounds of its members;
- (2) All the functions of the College shall be performed in accordance with this our Charter and Statutes. The College shall have the power to do anything within the law which furthers or helps to further the objects of the College.
4. The College shall be a teaching, research and examining body and shall, subject to this Our Charter and the Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations, have the power to:
 - (1) Award degrees and other academic awards to persons who have pursued a programme approved by the College, including any such academic awards or distinctions in conjunction with another institution or institutions;
 - (2) Confer Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships or other distinctions on approved persons.
 - (3) To revoke any degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinction awarded or conferred by the College.
5. (1) There shall be a Council of the College which, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, shall be the supreme governing body of the College and as such shall exercise all the powers of the College save to the extent that this Our Charter and the Statutes shall otherwise provide. The Council shall conduct the general business of the College consistently with the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes.
- (2) There shall be elected from among the members of the Council a Chairman and one or more Vice-Chairmen of the Council, who shall not otherwise be in the employment of the College and the manner of election, period of office, powers and duties of each of them shall be as prescribed by the Ordinances. The Chairman of the Council, or nominee drawn from the Council membership determined in conjunction with the Principal and President, shall confer degrees and other academic distinctions.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the constitution of the Council, its powers and duties, the manner of appointment and period of office of its members, the manner of filling vacancies in its membership, the conduct of its meetings and affairs and all other matters relating to the Council shall be as prescribed by the Statutes and Ordinances.
6. There shall be a Principal and President of the College who shall be the chief academic and executive officer of the College and his powers and duties shall, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, be as prescribed by the Statutes.
7. There shall be a Visitor of the College who shall be appointed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council on the representation of the Council for such period and with such duties as We, Our Heirs or Successors shall deem fit.
8. There shall be an Academic Board whose members shall be as prescribed in the Ordinances and it shall, subject to the powers of the Council prescribed in this Our Charter and the Statutes, be the body responsible under delegated authority from the Council for the regulation of the academic work of the College in teaching and examining and in research. It shall also advise the Council on academic matters affecting the College.
9. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the Council may appoint such staff, having such powers and duties and upon such terms and conditions, as the Council sees fit. Staff employed by the College who are directly engaged in teaching and research 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.
10. There shall be a students' union of the College whose constitution, and any amendments thereto, shall require the approval of the Council.
11. (1) The Council may by Special Resolution make, amend or revoke Statutes for the conduct of the affairs of the College.
- (2) No Statutes made by the Council shall have effect if they are repugnant to the provisions of this Our Charter or until they shall have been approved by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy Council of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our said Council shall be conclusive evidence.
12. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes, the Council (or such other proper delegated authority) may make such Ordinances and Regulations as it considers necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the College and shall stipulate when such Ordinances and Regulations come into effect. Such Ordinances and Regulations may add to, amend or repeal the existing Ordinances and Regulations.

13. The Statutes may direct that any of the matters authorised or directed in this Our Charter to be prescribed or regulated by Statute shall be prescribed or regulated by Ordinance or Regulation or by decision made by the Council.
- 14 Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes, the Council and the Academic Board may from time to time make Standing Orders governing their respective proceedings, and the power to make Standing Orders shall include the power to add to, amend or repeal any existing Standing Orders.
15. The Council may at any time revoke or vary any of the provisions of this Our Charter by a Special Resolution and any such revocation or variation shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, have effect so that this Our Charter shall thereafter continue and operate as if it had been originally granted and made as so revoked or varied, and this provision shall apply to this Our Charter as so revoked or varied.
16. Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that this Our Charter shall ever be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the College and to 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 thirteenth day of May in the fifty-eighth year of Our Reign [2009].

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL