

## Becoming a Member of the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network

The Age-Friendly University (AFU) principles reflect the work of an interdisciplinary team convened by Professor Brían MacCraith, President, Dublin City University (DCU) as a framework to identify the distinctive contributions institutions of higher education can make in responding to the interests and needs of an aging population. Launched in 2012, the 10 AFU principles have been adopted by a growing number of institutions in Europe, North America, Asia and beyond.



### What are the 10 AFU principles?

1. To encourage the participation of older adults in all the **core activities** of the University, including educational and research programmes.
2. To promote personal and career development in the second half of life and to support those who wish to pursue **second careers**.
3. To recognize the **range of educational needs** of older adults (from those who were early school-leavers through to those who wish to pursue Master's or PhD qualifications).
4. To promote **intergenerational learning** in order to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.
5. To widen access to **online educational opportunities** for older adults to ensure a diversity of routes to participation.
6. To ensure that the university's **research agenda** is informed by the needs of an ageing society and to promote public discourse on how higher education can better respond to the varied interests and needs of older adults.
7. To increase the understanding of students of the **longevity dividend** and the increasing complexity and richness that ageing brings to our society.
8. To enhance access for older adults to the university's range of **health and wellness programmes** and its **arts and cultural activities**.
9. To engage actively with the university's own **retired community**.
10. To ensure regular **dialogue** with organizations representing the interests of the ageing population.

DCU invites you to endorse the AFU principles and to adopt the principles to become part of the pioneering global network of age-friendly institutions of higher education.

### Why should my institution endorse the AFU principles?

Globally, the number of older adults is growing at unprecedented rate and significantly more individuals are experiencing increased longevity. Institutes of higher education are in a unique position to respond to the educational needs and interests of this emerging age population. The AFU principles provides a valuable guiding framework for distinguishing and evaluating how it can shape age-friendly programs and practices, as well as identify gaps and opportunities for growth. Joining the AFU network of global partners offers your institution the opportunity to learn about emerging age-friendly efforts and to contribute to exploring new educational and innovative practices of teaching, research, and community engagement which is of social, personal, and economic benefit to students of all ages and institutions of higher education.

## How does my institution go about endorsing the AFU principles and joining the network?

Complete the following steps to join the AFU global network, working to build more age-friendly institutions of higher education.

1. Meet with colleagues from your department (and interested others from affiliated aging programs or centers) to review the AFU principles and map how they inform opportunities and gaps at your institution. Seek faculty endorsement of the principles at the department, program, and/or institutional level.
2. Arrange a meeting with the appropriate member of your administration (e.g., dean, provost, president) who would approve your institutional endorsement. Some institutions may also wish to discuss the initiative with a faculty assembly, a governance group, or curriculum committee.
3. Send confirmation of your endorsement to Professor Brian MacCraith, President (DCU) [brian.maccraith@dcu.ie](mailto:brian.maccraith@dcu.ie) and cc Christine O'Kelly (AFU Network Coordinator, DCU) [christine.okelly@dcu.ie](mailto:christine.okelly@dcu.ie) (website: [www.dcu.ie/agefriendly](http://www.dcu.ie/agefriendly)). Include in your confirmation notice, the AFU contact at your institution, a link to your institutional website, and a copy of your institutional logo for the AFU webpages. It is also useful to state what you wish to achieve from membership of the network, for example increasing the visibility of older adults on campus or influencing institutional policy reform.
4. Work with your communications office to develop a press release announcing your institution's endorsement of the AFU principles. DCU are happy to provide comments for your notice.

## Some FAQs

**Is there a cost?** At present there is no cost to joining the AFU global network.

**Does my institution need to fulfill all principles?** While it is hoped that institutions will strive to address all 10 AFU principles to some degree, variation is expected given factors that distinguish institutions and their programs.

**Who are the members of the AFU network?** Dublin City University, Strathclyde University Glasgow, Arizona State University, Lasell College, University of Massachusetts - Boston, University of Manitoba, Florida State University, Central Connecticut State University, University of New England - Maine, University of Southern California, University of Akron, University of Hartford, University of Galway, McMaster University, National College of Ireland, Athlone Institute of Education, Trinity College - Dublin, Leeds Beckett University, University of Bratislava, Pai Chai University, Maastricht University, University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse, Northeastern Illinois University, Ryerson University, Portland State University, Brookdale Centre for Healthy Ageing – Hunter College NY, University of Sherbrooke, Trent University, University of Rhode Island, Royal College of Physicians – Ireland, Fielding Graduate University, University of the Philippines.

Contact Christine O'Kelly for an updated members list.

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## Welcome to the AFU Network!

Your first step in endorsing and using the AFU principles to inform your efforts to develop more age-friendly programs and practices is the most important one. We look forward to the next steps with AFU global partners in building more age-friendly institutions of higher education.



We are endorsed by

