

# Charter of Incorporation

Dated 17 March, 1926

Notes: 1. Amendments allowed by Her Majesty the Queen in Council on 12 September 1960, 7 June, 1968, 28 July 1970, 31 July 1981, 12 July 2000, 16 July 2002, 13 October 2004, 13 January 2005, 28 October 2005, 14 December 2006, 4 April 2007, 11 June 2008 and 10 May 2011, are embodied in the Charter which follows.

**George the Fifth** by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, 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 Reading praying Us to erect a University having its seat in Reading and to grant a Charter with such appropriate provisions therein in that behalf as shall seem to Us meet and fit:

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 in that behalf and all other powers enabling Us so to do of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents do for Us Our Heirs and Successors grant will direct and ordain as follows:

## I Name and Style

There shall be from henceforth for ever in Our County Borough of Reading a University by the name and style of 'The University of Reading' by which name the Chancellor and all others who pursuant to this Our Charter and the Statutes of the University for the time being shall be Members of the University are hereby constituted one body politic and corporate with perpetual succession and a Common Seal and with full power by and in such name to sue and be sued and without any further licence to take by gift or otherwise purchase and hold grant demise or otherwise dispose of real or personal estate and with other powers by this Our Charter prescribed.

## II The Visitor

We Our Heirs and Successors Kings and Queens of the Kingdom and Dominions aforesaid shall be and remain the Visitor and Visitors of the University of Reading acting through the Lord President of Our Council for the time being and in exercise of the Visitorial Authority We and 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 libraries and general equipment Colleges Halls Hostels and Houses for the residence of students

and also of the teaching examinations and research and other work done by the University.

### **III Powers**

The University shall have the following powers:

(1) To grant and confer under conditions laid down in its Statutes or Ordinances Degrees and other academic distinctions including Degrees and other academic distinctions in conjunction with another institution or jointly-awarded with another institution or awarded in the name of an institution that has been incorporated in the University for a period until persons registered with that institution at the time of such incorporation have completed their studies to and on persons who shall have pursued an approved course of study and shall have passed the examinations or other tests prescribed provided that Degrees representing proficiency in technical subjects shall not be conferred without proper security for testing the scientific or general knowledge underlying technical attainments.

(2) To admit graduates of other Universities to Degrees of equal or similar rank in the University.

(3) To confer Degrees of the University on any persons who hold office in the University as Professors Readers Lecturers or otherwise or who shall have carried on research therein under conditions laid down in its Statutes or Ordinances.

(4) To grant Diplomas Certificates or other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University under conditions laid down by the University.

(5) To confer Honorary Degrees and other distinctions on approved persons provided that all Degrees and other distinctions so conferred shall be conferred and held subject to any provisions which are or may be made in reference thereto by the Statutes Ordinances or Regulations of the University.

(6) On good cause shown to deprive persons of any Degrees Diplomas Certificates or distinctions granted or conferred upon them by the University.

(7) 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 Schools or otherwise as the University may determine.

(8) To examine and inspect schools and other educational institutions and to provide such lectures and instruction for persons not members of the University as the University may determine and to grant Certificates to such schools institutions or persons.

(9) To accept the examinations and periods of study passed by students of the University at other Universities or places of learning including therein University College Reading 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.

(10) To affiliate other institutions or branches or departments thereof 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.

(11) To co-operate by means of Joint Boards or otherwise with other University authorities for the conduct of Matriculation Examinations for the examination and inspection of schools and other academic institutions and for the extension of University teaching and influence in academic matters and for such other purposes as the University may from time to time determine.

(12) To enter into any agreement with University College Reading for the incorporation of that College in the University and for taking over its rights property liabilities and engagements and if necessary to promote a Bill in Parliament to confirm or carry out any such agreement.

(13) To enter into any agreement with any other institution for the incorporation of that institution in the University and for taking over its rights property and liabilities and for any other purpose not repugnant to this Our Charter.

(14) To institute Professorships Readerships Lectureships and any other offices required by the University and to appoint to such offices.

(15) To institute and award Fellowships Scholarships Exhibitions Bursaries and Prizes.

(16) To establish and maintain and to administer and govern institutions for the residence of the students of the University whether Colleges Halls Hostels or Houses and to license and supervise such institutions.

(17) To make provision for research and for advisory services and with these objects to enter into such arrangements with other institutions or with public bodies as may be thought desirable.

(18) 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.

(19) 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.

#### **IV The Chancellor**

(1) There shall be a Chancellor of the said University who shall be the head and Chief Officer of the University and a Member and President of the Court. Except as otherwise hereby provided the Chancellor shall confer Degrees.

(2) The first Chancellor shall be Our trusty and well-beloved James Herbert Benyon.

(3) His successors from time to time shall be elected by the Council of the University.

### **V The President of the Council and the Vice-Presidents of the Council**

(1) There shall be a President of the Council of the University and Vice-Presidents of the Council who shall subject to the Statutes of the University act for the President during a vacancy in the office of President or during the absence or inability of the President.

(2) The first President of the Council shall be Our trusty and well-beloved Alfred Palmer.

(3) The first Vice-President of the Council shall be Our trusty and well-beloved Leonard Goodhart Sutton.

### **VI The Vice-Chancellor the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors**

(1) There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be the Principal Academic Officer of the University and ex officio Chairman of the Senate and who shall in the absence of the Chancellor confer Degrees.

(2) The first Vice-Chancellor shall be Our trusty and well-beloved William Macbride Childs now Principal of University College Reading.

(3) There shall be a Deputy Vice-Chancellor and three Pro-Vice-Chancellors. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor or a Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall subject to the Statutes of the University act for the Vice-Chancellor during a vacancy in the Office of Vice-Chancellor or during the absence or incapacity of the Vice-Chancellor. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall be senior to a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

### **VII The Court**

(1) There shall be a Court of the University which shall have the constitution powers and duties conferred on it by Ordinance.

(2) The first Members of the Court shall be the persons named or referred to in the first part of the First Schedule to these Presents.

### **VIII The Council**

(1) There shall be an Executive Governing Body of the University which shall be called the Council of the University and subject to this Our Charter and to the Statutes of the University shall have the custody and use of the Common Seal of the University the government and control of the finances of the University 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.

(2) The Council shall have power to establish and maintain and to administer and govern whether through the agency of special committees or otherwise institutions for the residence of students of the University whether Colleges Halls Hostels or Houses and to license and supervise such institutions.

(3) The Council may at any time alter amend or add to these Presents and their provisions by a Special Resolution in that behalf and such alteration amendment or addition shall when allowed by Us Our Heirs or Successors by and with the advice of Our Privy Council become effectual so that these Presents shall thenceforward continue to operate as though they had been originally granted and made as so altered amended or added to in a manner aforesaid.

This Article of these Presents shall apply to this Our Charter as altered amended or added to in manner aforesaid. A Special Resolution means a Resolution passed at one Meeting of the Council and confirmed at a subsequent Meeting held not less than one calendar month nor more than five calendar months after the former provided that the Resolution be passed at each Meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of those present and voting.

(4) The first Members of the Council of the University shall be the persons named in the second part of the First Schedule to these Presents.

## **IX The Senate**

(1) There shall be a Senate which subject to this Our Charter and to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University and to the control and approval of the Council of the University shall regulate and superintend the education and discipline of the University and shall have such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon it by Statute or Ordinance.

(2) The Senate shall have power to discuss any matter whatsoever relating to the University.

(3) The first Members of the Senate shall be the persons named in the third part of the First Schedule to these Presents.

## **X The Faculties**

(1) The University shall include such Faculties as may from time to time be constituted.

(2) A Board of each Faculty shall be constituted with such powers and duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance.

(3) There shall be a Dean of each Faculty who shall be appointed in such manner and shall have assigned to him such powers and duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance.

## **XI The Schools of the University**

The University shall include such Schools as may from time to time be constituted.

## **XII Convocation**

(1) There shall be a Convocation of the University which shall consist of the Chancellor the Vice-Chancellor the Professors of the University the other members of the Boards of the Faculties the other members of the Committees for the Schools of the University other members of the Academic Staff the Graduates of the

University holders of Diplomas of the University and holders of Certificates of the University.

(2) Ordinances of the University shall prescribe or regulate as the case may be the constitution functions privileges and all other matters relative to Convocation which may be thought proper to be so prescribed and regulated.

### **XIII Statutes of the University**

(1) Statutes of the University shall prescribe or regulate as the case may be

(a) The constitution powers and duties of the Council of the University the election and continuance in office of the members of the Council (including the continuance in office of the first members) the filling of vacancies among the members and all other matters relative to the Council which may be thought proper to be so prescribed and regulated.

(b) The constitution powers and duties of the Senate and all other matters relative to the Senate which may be thought proper to be so prescribed and regulated.

(c) The constitution powers and duties of the Boards of the Faculties and the election appointment and continuance in office of the Deans of the Faculties and all other matters relative to the Faculties which may be thought proper to be so prescribed and regulated.

(d) The constitution powers and duties of the Committees for the Schools of the University and all other matters relative to the Schools which may be thought proper to be so prescribed and regulated.

(2) The first Statutes shall be those scheduled to these Presents. The Council may from time to time in accordance with a procedure prescribed by Statute make any new or additional Statutes for the University which shall carry into effect this Our Charter and its provisions and which may govern and regulate the affairs business work and interests of the University and the members thereof as such and the status appointment and continuance in office of the members the Chancellor President of the Council Vice-Chancellor Deans of the Faculties and other officers of the University and may contain all such provisions as the Council may deem it fit and meet should be made with respect to or for the governing of the University its constituent parts and members or to promote the object of this Our Charter.

(3) The Statutes may add to amend alter or repeal the Statutes from time to time in force (including the first) and the matters with regard to which the Council shall have power to make Statutes shall not be limited by or with reference to the first or any subsequent Statutes or the several matters therein dealt with.

(4) The Council shall have power to make Statutes either on its own initiative or after report from the Senate.

(5) All Statutes must be passed at one meeting of the Council and confirmed at a subsequent meeting held not less than one calendar month nor more than five calendar months after the former and notice of the fact that Statutes will be considered together with a copy of the proposed Statutes or a short statement of the nature thereof must have been given with respect to each of the two meetings aforesaid.

(6) Every Resolution of the Council to alter amend or add to the Charter shall

be communicated to the Senate as soon as may be after the same has been passed by the Council and before it has been confirmed by the Council as a Special Resolution and a copy of any proposed new Statute or a short statement of the nature thereof shall be communicated to the Senate as soon as may be after the same has been passed at one meeting of the Council and before the same has been confirmed by the Council.

(7) All Statutes which are not repugnant to the provisions of this Our Charter or the Laws of this Realm shall be operative and have effect when allowed by Us in Council or by a Committee of Our Privy Council and not before. Such allowance shall be conclusive evidence of the Statutes so allowed being authorised by the provisions of this Our Charter.

#### **XIV Ordinances of the University**

(1) The Statutes of the University may direct that any of the matters by these Presents authorised or directed to be prescribed governed or regulated by Statutes of the University shall be prescribed governed or regulated by Ordinances of the University.

(2) All Ordinances shall be made by the Council by a vote of a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council present and voting.

(3) Ordinances may add to amend alter or repeal Ordinances from time to time in force.

#### **XV Regulations of the University**

(1) The Council the Senate the Boards of the Faculties and the Committees for the Schools of the University respectively may from time to time make Regulations for governing subject to these Presents and the Statutes of the University the proceedings of those bodies. The power to make Regulations shall include the power to add to amend alter or repeal any Regulations theretofore made.

#### **XVI Explanation of Terms 'Statutes' 'Ordinances' and 'Regulations'**

In this Our Charter 'Statutes' means the Statutes set forth in the Second Schedule hereto and any Statutes altering amending adding to or repealing the same or any of them which may hereafter be made and may be allowed by Us in Council or by a Committee of Our Council. '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.

#### **XVII Examinations**

All examinations held by the University shall be conducted in such manner as the Statutes and Ordinances shall prescribe provided that at least one External Examiner shall be appointed by the Council for each subject or group of subjects forming part

of the course of studies required for University Degrees but this proviso shall not apply to examinations for admission or entrance to the University.

### **XVIII Religious Tests**

No test of religious belief or profession shall be imposed upon any person in order to entitle him or her to be admitted as a member Professor Teacher or Student of the University or to hold office therein or to graduate thereat or to hold any advantage or privilege thereof.

### **XIX Admission to the University**

Sex shall not be a disqualification for admission to the University for the holding of any office in the University for membership of any of its constituent bodies or for admission to any of its Degrees.

### **XX Dividends**

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

### **XXI Power to Hold Real Property**

In addition to the buildings lands and premises of the University used and occupied for the immediate purposes thereof the University shall have power not withstanding the Statutes of Mortmain and Charitable Uses and free from the restrictions thereof to hold land tenements and hereditaments of an annual value not exceeding in the aggregate at the time or respective times of the acquisition of the same the sum of £50,000.

### **XXII Fees**

The University may demand and receive such fees as the Council may from time to time appoint.

### **XXIII Construction**

Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that these Presents shall ever be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the University of Reading 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 seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord, 1926, and in the sixteenth year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

SCHUSTER