



## The Charter

### Elizabeth the Second

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Out 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 the Governors of The College of Aeronautics Registered praying that We should constitute and found an institute of technology at Cranfield in Our County of Bedford for the advancement, dissemination and application of learning and knowledge in the disciplines of the Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Management and for the furtherance and extension of the objects (as subsequently varied from time to time) for which the said College was established and with power for such institute to confer Degrees 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 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 for Us, Our Hers and Successors do will and ordain as follows:

The Chancellor and the other Officers of the University, the Graduates of the University and the Members for the time being of the several Constitutional Bodies hereinafter referred to and all others who shall pursuant to this Our Charter and the Statutes of the University for the time being (herein referred to as “the Statutes”) be Members of the University are hereby constituted and from henceforth forever shall be one body politic and corporate with perpetual succession and a Common Seal by the name any style of “Cranfield University” (herein referred to as “the University”).

### Article 1      **Objects of the University**

The University will be an institute of technology and a teaching, research and examining body with power to grant Degrees. The objects of the University are to:

- 1.1      advance, disseminate and apply learning, knowledge and understanding with particular emphasis on the disciplines of the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Management; and
- 1.2      promote and encourage the transformation and application of that wisdom, knowledge and learning for the benefit of industry, the public services, and individuals and for the public benefit.

In fulfilling these objects, the University will give particular attention to the educational needs of industry, commerce and the public services and of people with experience therein who can benefit from an extension of their higher education and thereby be prepared for positions of greater responsibility.

## **Article 2      Powers of the University**

Subject to the provisions of the Charter and Statutes, and in the furtherance of its objects, the University will have all the powers of a natural person including, but not limited to, power:

- 2.1 in relation to teaching, research and innovation to:
  - 2.1.1 engage in scholarship and conduct research;
  - 2.1.2 admit applicants to programmes of study on the basis of their qualifications and experience;
  - 2.1.3 provide instruction and programmes of study and research, and to prescribe rules relating to the delivery of such instruction and programmes;
  - 2.1.4 prescribe and conduct appropriate forms of assessment, including examinations;
  - 2.1.5 confer Degrees and grant other academic awards, and to withdraw such Degrees and awards.
- 2.2 in relation to students to prescribe rules for:
  - 2.2.1 successfully attaining Degrees, distinctions and awards of the University, in relation to academic achievement;
  - 2.2.2 their conduct, discipline, roles and responsibilities; and
  - 2.2.3 hearing complaints and appeals against academic failure.
- 2.3 in relation to staff to:
  - 2.3.1 employ people in such positions as may be required, and to prescribe their conditions of service;
- 2.4 in relation to other institutions to:
  - 2.4.1 co-operate and collaborate with other institutions;
  - 2.4.2 affiliate other institutions, or branches or departments of other institutions;
  - 2.4.3 award joint Degrees and other academic awards with other institutions;
  - 2.4.4 incorporate into the University any other institution and take over its rights, property and liabilities, for any purpose not inconsistent with the Charter;
- 2.5 in relation to providing services and goods, within the limits applicable to a charity to:
  - 2.5.1 exploit for the University's benefit a facility or resource of the University, including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application of study, research or knowledge, belonging to the University, whether alone or with someone else;
  - 2.5.2 sell learning resources, intellectual property and other goods and services consistent with the Charter;
  - 2.5.3 print, reproduce and publish research and other works initiated by the University, or to provide for their printing, reproduction and publication;
  - 2.5.4 provide facilities and resources for the wellbeing of the University's students and staff;

2.6 in relation to transacting University business to:

- 2.6.1 acquire, own, maintain, manage and dispose of land and other property;
- 2.6.2 solicit, receive and administer fees, grants, subscriptions, donations, endowments, legacies, gifts and loans of any property whatsoever whether land or personal property;
- 2.6.3 act as trustee for and in relation to endowments, legacies and gifts;
- 2.6.4 invest any monies in the hands of the University and available for investment;
- 2.6.5 in furtherance of the objects, and so far as permitted by charity law, give guarantees; 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;
- 2.6.6 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 their own affairs; and

2.7 to do anything else necessary or convenient, whether incidental to these powers or not, in order to further the objects of the University as a place of education, learning and innovation.

### **Article 3 Constitutional Bodies**

#### **3.1 The Council**

There must be a Council that, as the supreme Governing Body of the University, acts to promote the University's interests.

##### **3.1.1 Functions of the Council**

The Council's functions are to:

- a. be ultimately responsible for the affairs of the University;
- b. determine the strategic direction of the University;
- c. ensure the effective management and control of the University's affairs, property and finances;
- d. determine the structure, staffing and overall composition of the University;
- e. appoint the Pro-Chancellor; and
- f. appoint and dismiss the Vice-Chancellor.

##### **3.1.2 Powers of the Council**

Subject to the Charter, the Council must exercise all the powers of the University and, without limiting the above, the Council has the specific powers set out in the Ordinances.

##### **3.1.3 Delegation by the Council**

Subject to sub-paragraph 3.1.4 below, the Council may delegate its powers under the Charter, the Statutes and Ordinances to an appropriately qualified:

- a. member of the Council;
- b. member of the University's staff; or
- c. a committee that contains one or more members of the Council.

Provisions governing the delegation of the Council's powers are set out in the Ordinances.

3.1.4 The Council may not delegate its powers to:

- a. appoint and dismiss the Vice-Chancellor;
- b. approve the annual budget;
- c. amend the Charter under the provisions of Article 5.1;
- d. make University Statutes or Ordinances;
- e. adopt the University's Annual Accounts; or
- f. appoint the University's Auditors.

3.2 The Senate

There must be a Senate of the University with authority delegated by Council to oversee the academic work of the University, the assurance of academic quality and standards, and the regulation of student affairs. The Senate will have the composition, powers and functions specified in the Ordinances.

3.3 The Assembly

There must be an Assembly with the composition, powers and functions specified in the Ordinances.

3.4 The Students' Association

There must be a Students' Association with the composition, powers and functions specified in the Ordinances.

3.5 The Alumni Association

There must be an Alumni Association with the composition and functions specified in the Ordinances.

**Article 4      Officers of the University**

4.1 The Chancellor

There will be a Chancellor who is entitled to confer Degrees on behalf of the University.

4.2 The Pro-Chancellor

There will be a Pro-Chancellor, who is the Chair of Council and will act as Chancellor in the absence of the Chancellor or in the event of a vacancy in post.

4.3 The Vice-Chancellor

4.3.1 There will be a Vice-Chancellor of the University.

4.3.2 The Vice-Chancellor is the chief executive officer of the University.

4.3.3 The Vice-Chancellor is entitled, in the absence of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, to confer Degrees on behalf of the University.

4.3.4 The Vice-Chancellor is the ex-officio Chair of the Senate.

4.3.5 In the event of the Vice-Chancellor's death or incapacity, or a vacancy in the office, the Council may appoint an Acting Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the Ordinances. In such an event, the term "the Vice-Chancellor" in this

Charter, the Statutes and the Ordinances applies to the duly appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor.

#### 4.4 Other Officers

- 4.4.1 In addition to the named Officers of the University laid out in the Charter, the Council may, from time to time, appoint other Officers of the University as may be deemed necessary with such duties and on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

### **Article 5 University Laws**

#### 5.1 The Charter

The Council will at any time add to, amend, or revoke the Charter by a Special Resolution. Any addition, amendment, or revocation will only become effective when approved by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council. A certificate from the Clerk of the Privy Council will be conclusive evidence of approval. This Article applies to the Charter as added to, amended, or revoked.

#### 5.2 The Statutes

Subject to the provisions of the Charter, the Statutes prescribe:

- 5.2.1 the constitution and business of the Council;
- 5.2.2 other provisions that the Council may make in connection with the governance of the University, or for the promotion of the objects of the Charter.

The Statutes may direct that any of the matters prescribed or regulated by Statute as authorised or directed in the Charter may be further prescribed or regulated by Ordinance, by Regulation, or by decision made by the Council.

The Council may, at any time, by Special Resolution, make Statutes for the University which add to, amend or revoke the Statutes in force. These Statutes must not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter. Any additions, amendments or revocation will only become effective when approved by the Privy Council. A Certificate from the Clerk of the Privy Council will be conclusive evidence of approval.

#### 5.3 The Ordinances

Subject to the provisions of the Charter and the Statutes the Council may by Ordinary Resolution, make, add to, amend or revoke such Ordinances as it considers necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the University, and must stipulate when such Ordinances come into effect; provided that Ordinances must not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter or Statutes.

#### 5.4 The Regulations

Subject to the provisions of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances, the Senate may, within the responsibilities delegated to it by the Council, make, and add to, amend or revoke Regulations.

### **Article 6 Other provisions**

#### 6.1 The Visitor

We reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and successors, on representation from the Council following an Ordinary Resolution, the right by Order in Council to appoint a Visitor of the University for such period and with such duties as We, Our Heirs and Successors see fit.

#### 6.2 Academic Freedom

Academic Staff will 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.

#### 6.3 Equality and Diversity

The University will promote a collaborative and supportive working and learning environment, which embeds equality of opportunity and the rights of individuals in all its operations, and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

#### 6.4 The Application of Income

The University must not apply its income other than in furtherance of its objects and must not make any payment as a dividend, gift, division or bonus in money to or between any of its members except by way of prize, reward or special grant.

### **Article 7      Primacy of the Charter**

The Charter must always be construed benevolently and most favourably to the University and the promotion of the objects of the Charter.