

University charter of the University of Oldenburg (Unofficial reading version)

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The basis for this unofficial reading version is the University Charter of the University of Oldenburg from 14th June 2016 and the amendments from 31st March 2025 and 13th February 2026. The University Charter from 14th June 2016 and the amendments – all in German language – can be found in the [Official Notices](#).

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Preamble

¹The choice of the name Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg reflects, without prejudice to the diversity of views held by the university's members and affiliates, a commitment to the principles that guided Carl von Ossietzky's journalistic work: political freedom and social justice, an institutionally and socioculturally anchored democratic republic, science and public engagement in the service of the common good and peace. ²The naming is also intended to keep alive for future generations the memory of a person who fought uncompromisingly against militarism, nationalism and violations of the rule of law, and who suffered imprisonment and a fatal stay in a concentration camp as a result.

I. Fundamentals

Section 1 Name, legal status and seal

- (1) The name of the University is „University of Oldenburg“.
- (2) ¹The university is a scientific higher education institution. ²It is under the state responsibility of the state of Lower Saxony and is a public-law entity. ³It governs its affairs in the University Charter and other regulations.
- (3) The university maintains its own seal in matters of self-administration.

Section 2 Duties

- (1) ¹The university's duties are derived from Section 3 NHG. ²It is dedicated to the advancement and development of the sciences and arts and professional qualification through research, teaching, study and continuing education. ³It fulfils its

duties in freedom, self-determination and commitment to human rights, the natural environment and the peaceful development of humanity. ⁴Aware of its responsibility to society and the natural environment, it deals with the possible consequences of the dissemination and use of its research results. ⁵The university promotes the connection between science and social practice. ⁶In the performance of its duties, it advocates for the elimination of social disadvantages. ⁷It cooperates with other universities, responsible state authorities and other relevant institutions. ⁸The university takes into account the special problems and needs of people in the region.

- (2) ¹The university rejects any participation in science and research with military use or objective. ²The research at the university and its cooperative projects serves the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge, its general dissemination and practical use for peaceful purposes and for preservation of natural foundations of life. ³In case of doubt, the applicant for a research project shall provide proof that the intended research objective does not serve military purposes.
- (3) ¹All members and affiliates of the university involved in research and teaching have to consider the consequences of scientific and artistic knowledge. ²If they become aware of results of research, especially at the university, that may pose a risk to health, life or peaceful coexistence, they shall inform the competent committee in accordance with the Regulations of the Committee for Ethics and Research Impact Assessment.
- (4) ¹To fulfil its duties, the university maintains relationships with social, cultural and political institutions and organizations as well as those in the work and economic life. ²It fosters cooperation with workers' and employers' organizations.
- (5) ¹The university is committed to the principle of cooperative fulfilment of its duties. ²It fosters and supports open and university-wide discussion and debate about its goals, structures and working practices.
- (6) ¹The university guarantees the freedom and plurality of scientific and artistic opinions, questions, methods, statements, communication and information. ²The freedom rights according to this University Charter are exercised in the responsibility of scientific work towards society. ³Their perception does not exempt them from respecting the rights of others or from observing the regulations that govern life at the university. ⁴Honesty, truth and reason have the utmost priority in scientific and artistic work. ⁵The University Senate shall determine, through appropriate regulations, principles of good scientific and artistic practice and procedures in the event of scientific or artistic misconduct.
- (7) ¹The university is committed to promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities or chronic illness and takes their specific needs in plans and developments. ²The Presidential Board also appoints upon the recommendation of the student

representatives on the University Senate, a representative to represent the interests of students with disabilities or chronic illness with a term of two years.

Section 3 Members and affiliates

(1) ¹The membership of the University of Oldenburg is governed by the NHG. ²The details of participation shall be determined by Section 10 of this university charter.

(2) ¹Anyone who works at the university¹ without being a member of it, as well as any external member of the University Council pursuant to section 52 (2) sentence 2 no. 1 of the NHG is an affiliate of the university. ²Affiliates are in particular:

- a) retired and emeritus professors,
- b) guest student,
- c) temporary lecturer,
- d) visiting researcher with the meaning of section 35 (2) NHG,
- e) private lecturer and adjunct professor, provided they are not already members of the university by virtue of another legal relationship,
- f) the members of the executive boards or governing boards as well as doctors² at the university hospitals and institutes of the hospital operators cooperating under section 63i (1) NHG who do not hold membership status; other staff involved in research and teaching at the university hospitals and institutes upon application and with the approval of the Dean's Office of School VI – School of Medicine and Health Sciences and,
- g) employees of the University's affiliated institutes and of equivalent cooperating public-law institutions for the purpose of participating in the University's self-governing committee, upon resolution of the organ responsible for appointing members to the relevant self-governing committee; the resolution regarding the status of affiliates may already include the specific assignment of duties.

(3) ¹Affiliates may be appointed to an advisory position to assist with the university's duties of the organs of the schools (Dean's, School Council). ²In other central and

¹ Legal Note: „Anyone who works at the university“ within the meaning of subsection 1 refers to any person who has a contract of employment or legal relationship with the university of a not insignificant nature or who participates in self-governance in accordance with the relevant regulations.

² Legal Note: Unless they already hold membership status under other provisions of the NHG.

decentral governing committees (with the exception of institute councils and department councils) affiliates may also participate with voting rights, provided that this is provided for in the relevant regulations and they are appointed to do so by resolution of the competent appointing organ.

- (4) Members and affiliates of the university have the right to use all university facilities³ within the framework of applicable regulations.

II. Organs of the university and schools

II.1 Central organs of the university

Section 4 Central organs

The central university organs are the University Senate, the Presidential Board and the University Council pursuant to Section 36 (1) NHG.

Section 5 University Senate

- (1) ¹The University Senate consists 13 members with voting rights. ²They are elected directly by groups. ³The University Senate is composed as follows:

7 members from the professors' group

2 members from the academic staff

2 members from the students' group

2 members from the MTV group.

- (2) ¹The members of the Presidential Board are advisory members of the Senate; the President presides over the meetings without a vote. ²The Deans or their representatives from the Dean's Office as specified in Section 8 of this University Charter, the gender equality officer, one representative of the Staff Council, one representative each from the Student Body, the Centre for Teacher Education and the central institutions are advisory members of the University Senate. ³A member of the Doctoral Students' Representation participates in the university public meetings of the University Senate in advisory capacity. ⁴The University Senate may

³ Not dated 26th August 2024: This includes central facilities whose use has been approved by the Presidential Board (as the responsible organ for their institution under Section 37 NHG), such as university sports, the library, and continuing education facilities.

appoint additional advisory members for the current term of office by a simple majority.

(3) ¹The Senate adopts the regulations of the university, to the extent that this competence is not assigned to a school or another organ by the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) or this University Charter. ²It decides:

- the University Charter and its amendments with a two-thirds majority of its members, as well as
- the regulations of the university and their amendments, to the extent that their applicability (recipient) and effects are not limited to the schools, their sub-units or comparable units.

³The University Senate may adopt examination regulations for inter-faculty degree programs and their amendments in consultation with the participating schools; this includes, in particular, those intended to ensure university-wide uniform standards in the examination procedure and examination administration. ⁴The consultation referred to in sentence 3 requires prior involvement of the participating schools.

(4) ¹The Senate may establish committees and commissions to prepare for the performance of its duties. ²Committees are advisory bodies (see section 10 of this University Charter) consisting exclusively of members of the establishing organ. ³Commissions are advisory bodies that may also include persons who are not members of the establishing organ. ⁴All status groups must be represented in commissions and committees. ⁵The number of members, their distribution among the member groups, and their duties are determined by the University Senate with a two-thirds majority of its members. ⁶In non-permanent commissions, all groups represented in the University Senate should be represented in equal proportions, unless the University Senate decides otherwise with a two-thirds majority.

(5) ¹The Senate establishes the following permanent commissions:

- a. University Development Planning Committee (5:2:1:1⁴)
- b. Commission for Research Impact Assessment and Ethics (4:1:1:1)
- c. Senate's Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2:2:2:2)
- d. Arbitration Committee (1:1:1:1 + 2 advisory members from the professors' group)
- e. Commission for the Promotion of Research and Young Talent (2:2:2:2)
- f. University Charter Committee (3:3:3:3)

⁴ (In accordance with the order specified in section 16 (2) sentence 4 of the NHG: lecturers or professors, academic staff, students and MTV)

- g. Commission for the Appointment of Honorary Citizens, Honorary Senators, Award of the University Medal (4:1:1:1)
- h. Cooperation Committee (2:2:2:2)
- i. Committee for Good Scientific Practice

²More details on the procedures and duties of the Commission for Research Impact Assessment and Ethics as well as the Committee for Good Scientific Practice are governed by separate regulations. ³For the other commissions, more detailed provisions can be made in separate regulations.

Section 6 Presidential Board

(1) ¹The Presidential Board consists:

- a. the president
- b. one Vice President for Administration and Finance, who is also responsible for the university budget pursuant to Section 9 of the state budget code (LHO), as well as
- c. possibly one additional full-time Vice President, if proposed by the President, as well as
- d. up to four part-time Vice Presidents, in the case of an additional full-time Vice President according to letter c., up to three part-time Vice Presidents.

²However, the Presidential Board consists of at least five members. ³The term of office of the part-time Vice Presidents is three years. ⁴At least half the members of the Presidential Board shall be women. ⁵The Presidential Board decides on the allocation of responsibilities within the framework of legal provisions.

(2) The President is represented by the full-time Vice President for Administration and Finance in legal and administrative matters.

(3) ¹The election of the full-time members of the Presidential Board is preceded by a public advertisement, subject to the exception in sentence 2. ²With a two-thirds majority of the members of the University Senate and the consent of the University Council, the appointment or reappointment can be made for a further term of office without advertisement.

Section 7 University Council

The term of office of the members of the University Council is four years.

II.2 Organs of the schools

Section 8 Dean's Office

(1) ¹The Dean's Office of a school consists of:

- the Dean
- a Dean of Studies and, if needed, a deputy Dean of Studies
- by decision of the School Council with a two-thirds majority of its members, usually no more than three Vice Deans
- in the case of the Medical School, also the medical member of the Executive Board of Klinikum Oldenburg (with voting rights) as well as, as a Vice Dean, a member of the professors' group from the other hospitals cooperating according to section 63i (1) sentence 1 NHG (with voting rights), who is proposed by consensus by them.

²The Dean of Studies is elected in accordance with section 45 (4) sentence 1 NHG.

³The term of office of the part-time members of the Dean's Office is two years.

(2) ¹The part-time members of the Dean's Office (not their deputies) may, upon request, be fully or partially exempted from their duties as professors for the duration of their term of office. ²The total scope of the exemption of all members of the Dean's Office, with the exception of the Deans of Studies, must not exceed the scope of the official duties of one person.

Section 9 School Council

(1) ¹The School Council consists 13 members with voting rights. ²They are elected directly by groups. ³The members of the School Council with voting rights are:

7 members from the professors' group

2 members from the academic staff

2 members from the students' group

2 members from the MTV group.

(2) ¹The Dean presides over the meetings without a vote. ²The members of the Dean's Office as well as the Gender Equality Officer of the School are advisory members of the School Council. ³A member of the Doctoral Student's Representation

participates in the university public sessions of the School Council in an advisory capacity.

III. Self-Governance

Section 10 Regulations, confidentiality, resolutions, terms of office, student initiatives

- (1) ¹The University Senate shall adopt General Rules of Procedure, a code of ethics and a mission statement to regulate participation of members and affiliates in self-governance. ²The University Senate, the School Councils and the self-governing committees should hold their sessions in university public, as far as permissible. ³Governing committees as defined in this University Charter are all commissions (section 5 (4) sentence 3 University Charter), committees (section 5 (4) sentence 2 University Charter) and other self-governing committees formed by the organs.
- (2) ¹Members of the university shall not suffer any advantage or disadvantage as a result of their participation in self-governing. ²They are not bound by instructions in these functions. ³Members who are in a service relationship or employment relationship with the university fulfil their duty to participate in self-governing a part of their official duties.
- (3) Anyone who participates in non-public sessions of organs and governing committees is obligated to maintain confidentiality regarding the deliberations and decision-making and to treat consultation documents confidentially.
- (4) ¹Anyone who is an advisory member of the organ or governing committee has all the rights of a member with the exception of voting rights. ²If the legal relationship underlying an election or transfer to office expires or is suspended, the mandate and the transfer of office shall expire or be suspended.
- (5) ¹In deliberations and decisions, persons who could gain a direct personal advantage or disadvantage for themselves or a person close to them within the meaning of section 1 (1) of the Lower Saxony Administrative Procedure Act (NVwVfG) in conjunction with section 20 (1) and (5) of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG) in the respective current version shall be excluded. ²If, in accordance to section 1 (1) of the Lower Saxony Administrative Procedure Act (NVwVfG) in conjunction with section 21 of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG) or supplementary regulations of a university code of ethics, there is a reason that is suitable to mistrust in the impartiality of the exercise of office or professional judgment, or if the existence of such a reason is alleged by one of the participants, the organ or governing committee shall decide on the bias or concern of bias (section 20 (4) sentence 2 VwVfG if applicable analogously); the person concerned may not

participate in the decision, section 20 (4) sentence 3 VwVfG. ³If bias or apprehension of bias is established, the person concerned shall not participate in the questionable deliberations and decisions. ⁴The foregoing regulations do not apply to elections. ⁵To the extent that resolutions are passed with directly affect the area of work of a member of an organ or committee, a special weighting of the corresponding vote is excluded.

- (6) The elections to the University Senate and School Councils are governed by election regulations.
- (7) ¹The term of office for the members of the University Senate, School Councils, Institute or Department Councils and their permanent governing committees is two years, the term of office for the student representatives is one year. ²It begins on 1st April of each year. ³The term of office of the permanent commissions ends with the session of a newly elected permanent commission. ⁴The term of office of the members of the other governing committees begins with their election and ends after the expiry of the term of office of the organs sending them, according to sentence 1, in the case of students, it ends after the expiry of the members of the sending group in the corresponding organ, unless the NHG provides otherwise.
- (8) ¹The students of the university may request that a university organ deliberate and decide on a specific matter for which it is responsible according to the NHG (student initiative), if the student initiative has been signed by at least three out of one hundred of the students. ²The student initiative must be submitted in writing to the organ responsible for the matter in question, naming a contact person and in compliance with the Rules of Procedure and corresponding regulations. ³If a request according to sentence 1 has a subject matter that falls within the competence of the University Senate or School Council, the deliberation and resolution of the organ shall be university public and the contact person shall be invited as a rapporteur. ⁴The decision of the organ in question must be communicated to the contact person in writing within one week of the resolution being adopted.

Section 11 Procedure for the allocation of study quality funds

- (1) ¹The duties of the Study Quality Commission are performed by the cross-school Academic Planning Committee. ²It comprises 12 members with voting rights. ³Of these, six are members of the student group (one member for each school), who are elected by the members of the student group of the relevant school in the School Council. ⁴The remaining six members are the Deans of Study from the schools. ⁵The Centre for Teacher Education (diz), the central institutions, the student body and the divisions of the central administration may each appoint one

representative as an advisory member, the schools may additionally appoint one advisory member from the academic staff group.

- (2) The sessions of the Study Quality Commission are chaired by the member of the Presidential Board responsible for study and teaching without voting rights; a deputy is elected from among the members.
- (3) ¹The Study Quality Commission shall send a reasoned decision for the use of funds to the Presidential Board. ²If the Presidential Board does not approve this decision in whole or in part, it may be referred back to the Study Quality Commission for renewed deliberation together with the reasoned rejection of the Presidential Board or the University Senate can attempt reconciliation at the request of the Presidential Board. ³If, even after the University Senate has been consulted, no agreement can be reached in accordance with section 14b (2) sentence 2 NHG, the Presidential Board makes the final decision.
- (4) The agreement with the Study Quality Commission required in accordance with section 14b (2) sentence 2 NHG also includes the decision of the Presidential Board on the flat-rate distribution of the study quality funds to the schools as well as central and decentral organisational units.

Section 12 Academic appointments

- (1) ¹The University Senate shall, in agreement with the Presidential Board, adopt regulations for academic appointments, which shall also include provisions on quality assurance and on joint appointment procedures in accordance with subsection 2. ²Professorships are established by decision of the Presidential Board, following a proposal from the schools and taking into account the university's development and structural planning as well as its quality assurance procedures. ³Responsibility for compliance with legal provisions as well as quality assurance provisions within the Appointments Committee lies in particular with the chair of the Appointments Committee.
- (2) ¹Joint appointment procedures can be conducted with other scientific institutions that do not belong to a university for the filling of professorships. ²The call for applications must indicate the joint appointment procedure. ³The jointly appointed persons are to teach at the university. ⁴The scientific institution can participate in the Appointment Committee with voting rights or in an advisory capacity. ⁵The call for applications is to be agreed with the scientific institution and shall be internationally published.

IV. Gender equality

Section 13 Senate's Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality

- (1) ¹The Senate's Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (KfG) is formed by the University Senate on the recommendation of the Women's General Assembly. ²At least two-thirds of the members of the committee must be women. ³The Women's General Assembly submits to the University Senate separate election proposals for the members of the Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality, grouped according to section 16 (2) sentence 4 NHG, in a ratio of 2:2:2:2. ⁴The chair is held by a female member from the Presidential Board. ⁵The deputy chair is elected from the middle of the committee.
- (2) ¹Together with the gender equality officer, the Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality shall draw up proposals for the Presidential Board and the University Senate on how to fulfil the duties pursuant to section 3 (3) NHG with regard to overcoming inequalities due to gender. ²The Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality, in particular, prepares the equality plan as part of the university's development planning. ³Concrete goals and measures for their implementation must be specified therein.
- (3) The Women's General Assembly is convened by the central gender equality officer of the university at least once a year.

Section 14 Central gender equality officer

- (1) The gender equality officer must be informed and involved in all matters that fall within their area of responsibility according to section 42 NHG, in particular also in structural planning, in any case in good time and comprehensively.
- (2) ¹The Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality proposes to the University Senate with the majority of its members a full-time gender equality officer for election. ²The term of office of the full-time gender equality officer is six years, or eight years if re-elected. ³With the consent of the University Senate, the appointment can be extended for each additional term without a new call for applications. ⁴The hearings for the position of gender equality officer are open to the university community. ⁵The Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality is responsible for the procedure.
- (3) ¹The Committee on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality proposes to the University Senate with the majority of its members a female member of the

university deputy non-fulltime gender equality officer. ²Subsection 2 sentences 4 and 5 apply accordingly.

Section 15 Decentral gender equality officer

- (1) ¹On the recommendation of decentralised Women's Assembly of the respective school, the School Council shall elect a decentralised gender equality officer of the school. ²In the central institutions and central university administration (other organisational units) decentralised gender equality officers shall be appointed by the head of the organisational unit on the proposal of the respective Women's Assembly. ³The term of office for the decentralised gender equality officers is two years, for female students who hold this office, one year. ⁴Section 10 (2) of this University Charter applies.
- (2) The Women's Assemblies of the schools and other organisational units within the meaning of subsection 1 are convened by the respective head of the organisational unit.
- (3) ¹The decentralised gender equality officers of the schools shall work in close coordination with the central gender equality officer and taking into account the university-wide development plan to fulfil the equal opportunities mission in the respective school or other organisational unit within the meaning of subsection 1, in particular in relation to forthcoming personnel measures. ²The central and decentralised gender equality officers must be jointly involved in development planning and structural measures of the schools and other organisational units referred to in subsection 1. ³The gender equality officer of the school is an advisory member of the School Council and the Institute and Department Councils; the person may participate in the other school committees with the right to submit motions and speak. ⁴Sentence 3 also applies to the decentralised gender equality officers of the central institutions in relation to the respective head of their organisational unit. ⁵The decentralised gender equality officers are to be released from their other official duties to an appropriate extent. ⁶The rights of the central gender equality officer remain unaffected.
- (4) ¹Deputies may be elected or appointed for the decentralised gender equality officers for the schools. ²In the schools, a deputy gender equality officer of the school shall be elected for each of the assigned institutes or departments; further decentralised gender equality officers may be elected. ³A gender equality officer of the school may delegate the performance of individual duties or areas of responsibility to their deputy on revocable basis.

V. Final provisions

Section 16 Entry in force, publication

- (1) The University Charter shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the university's Official Notices after their approval by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture.
- (2) Regulations and other legal provisions as well as announcements of the university are published in the „Official Notices“.