

Guiding Principles

vision

mission



Our Vision

Our Vision is to make lifelong learning, through the experience of U3A, a reality for all third agers.

Our Mission

Our Mission declares our purpose as an organisation and serves as the standard against which we weigh our actions and decisions. It is to:

- Facilitate the growth of the U3A movement.
- Provide support for management and learning in U3As.
- Raise the profile of the U3A movement.
- Promote the benefits of learning in later life through self-help learning.

The Principles of the U3A Movement

The U3A movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a U3A is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a U3A.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a U3A can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all U3A members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any U3A.
- Each U3A is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the U3A movement.

Future Strategy

Following a presentation at the AGM 2021 the Third Age Trust is launching a consultation exercise to give all u3a members a say in the development of a future strategy for the movement.

The findings of the consultation process will hopefully be considered by the end of the year and firm proposals will be in place early next year. If you are interested in taking part in the consultation please view the [Working towards a Strategic Vision](#) document and email strategy@u3a.org.uk to find out more.

[Working towards a Strategic Vision \(243.85 KB\)](#)



U3A Office

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