

## Becoming an Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network Partner

The Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative and AFU principles reflect the work of an international, interdisciplinary team convened by Professor Brian MacCraith, President, Dublin City University (DCU), to identify the distinctive contributions that institutions of higher education can make in responding to the interests and needs of our aging populations.

The Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) endorses the AFU principles and invites you to call upon your institution to endorse them and become part of the pioneering global network of age-friendly institutions of higher education. The 10 AFU principles have been adopted by institutions in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, 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 programs.
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** 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 aging 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 aging brings to our society.
8. To enhance access for older adults to the university's range of **health and wellness** programs 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 aging population.

## ***How does my institution go about endorsing the AFU principles?***

Complete these steps to join the AFU network to build more age-friendly institutions of higher education.

1. Meet with colleagues from your program (and interested others from affiliated programs) to review the AFU principles and map your institution's age-friendly assets, gaps, and opportunities. 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., president, provost) 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 institution's endorsement to Professor Brian MacCraith, President (DCU) [brian.maccraith@dcu.ie](mailto:brian.maccraith@dcu.ie) and copy (cc:) both 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)) and [AGHE aghe@aghe.org](mailto:AGHE_aghe@aghe.org). In your letter, include the AFU contact at your institution, a link to your institution's website, and a copy of your institutional logo to be used on the AFU webpages. It is also useful to state what you wish to achieve by participating in the network, such as increasing the visibility of older adults on campus or influencing institutional policy reform.

## ***Some FAQs***

- ***Is there a cost?*** Currently, there is no cost to join; however, a membership model is being considered to support the rapidly growing network.
- ***Does my institution need to fulfill all AFU principles?*** While it is hoped that institutions will strive to address all principles to a degree, variation is expected given factors that distinguish institutions and their programs.
- ***Who are the AFU partner institutions, and how can I learn more about AGHE membership and support?*** Visit <https://www.aghe.org/resources/age-friendly-university-principles>

## **AGHE AFU Webinar Series**

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### **Becoming an Age-Friendly University (AFU) Partner**

- Joann M. Montepare and Kimberly S. Farah (Lasell College)
- Wednesday, January 9, 2019 — 1:00 pm (EST)

### **One Vision, Many Paths: Making an Age-Friendly University (AFU) Work for You**

- Carrie Andreoletti and Andrea June (Central Connecticut State University)
- Wednesday, February 6, 2019 — 1:00 pm (EST)

### **A Starting Point for Looking at Age-Friendliness on My Campus: AGHE Can Help**

- Nina M. Silverstein (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Marilyn R. Gugliucci (University of New England)
- Friday, March 1, 2019 — 1:00 pm (EST)

To register: <https://www.geron.org/programs-services/gsa-webinars>