



Charter

of Università
della Svizzera
italiana

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Charter of Università della Svizzera italiana

The Charter of Università della Svizzera italiana embodies and expresses our fundamental principles. It is the reference point for all members of our community, for their actions and reflections, enabling these principles to live every day.



Who we are

USI is a crossroad of opportunities open to the world, an international, inclusive and people-oriented university, where you can find your own way for the future.

People-oriented

We are a University where everyone can discover and express who they are, cultivating their talent and uniqueness. At our University, students have the chance to experience first-hand a high-quality, engaging, and interdisciplinary education that opens up international careers. Professors, researchers and collaborators also find a privileged space for autonomy and freedom of initiative. Unique and diverse, like each and every one of us, USI is a welcoming and lively environment in which to grow through interaction and dialogue.

Inclusive

We cultivate original perspectives and constantly seek unexpected paths. USI is a young university with a lively and enterprising culture that allows freedom of action and encourages proactivity and planning. At our University, curiosity, drive, and the desire to experiment with new ways of thinking, learning, teaching, and working, are appreciated and encouraged. We welcome all members of the university community and promote diversity and inclusion, recognising the potential of each individual as an added value for an open and innovative working and study culture.

International

We benefit from our unique position, at the same time decentralised and at the crossroads between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean. Two hours from Zurich and one from Milan, located where Swissness meets Italian culture, USI is a laboratory of synthesis and creative osmosis. Its contained size and its atmosphere, both familiar and cosmopolitan, promote plurality and the exchange of ideas, helping to make it a university in continuous development, open to the world and towards new horizons.

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is one of twelve public universities in the Swiss academic system, coordinated by swissuniversities. It is organised into six Faculties and is active in a number of different areas of study and research, notably architecture, communication, law, economics, medicine and biomedicine, informatics, public health, computational science, data science and the humanities.



Where we come from

Challenge and hope

Our University was created in 1996, in the spirit of challenge and hope. The challenge and the hope of a small region like many others, determined to oppose the destiny of an anonymous suburb and to be a voice in the world instead.

1996

Giuseppe Buffi,
State Councillor
of Ticino
(1986-2000)



“...the proposal for a University in the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland is brought forward not just despite the crisis, but, if anything, because we are in a crisis. USI embodies Canton Ticino’s desire to dare and hope”.

A choice of emancipation and future.

In 1996, the Swiss-Italian-speaking region inaugurated its University, marking the conclusion of an extensive development process. The institution is dedicated to contributing to the construction of a more sustainable future for both the local community and beyond. Furthermore, it actively fulfils its role as a facilitator for dialogue among diverse cultural contexts. USI was envisioned as a symbol and a driving force of hope and liberation during a significant economic crisis in its region - as an emblem and engine of hope and emancipation, as a space for plurality and reflection, as a bulwark of civilisation and memory.

Today

Luisa Lambertini,
Rector of USI



“Born from a collective act of courage, as a project of cultural and civil emancipation, USI nurtures an open and responsible community where everyone must feel included and, at the same time, empowered to express their voice. Even in challenging times, USI chooses hope: oriented towards progress, grounded in equity, aimed at sustainability, and enriched by diversity.”

Still today.

Today, the challenge and hope that were at the heart of USI’s founding still resonate in the challenge and hope of our students, who are searching for their place in the world; in that of our researchers, who are exploring new frontiers of knowledge and innovation; and, more generally, in that of a university that embraces and critically addresses the contradictions of our time, protecting public space and promoting, through knowledge, a more sustainable, inclusive, and pluralistic society.



Our commitment

We promote narratives of hope, serving as a space for reflection that helps us gather and confront present and future challenges.

A university is, by definition, an institution devoted to the transfer and development of knowledge. It is a place of truth-seeking and critical thinking, embodying both universality and uniqueness.

We carry out our mission with the conviction that the present and future of humanity largely lies on the cultural, scientific and technical progress we foster through teaching, research, and the sharing of knowledge at the service of the community.

The mission of Università della Svizzera italiana finds its legal basis in the Law that regulates Università della Svizzera italiana and consists of:

Providing quality education

We are committed to enhancing the intellectual and human assets of our students. We encourage them to practice critical thinking and engage in constructive dialogue. Our goal is to prepare them to become not only skilled and dynamic professionals in the future but also independent and responsible citizens.

Performing internationally relevant scientific research

We are committed to conducting independent, authoritative, enterprising and competitive research that contributes to the global scientific community by seeking new horizons and developing solutions through interdisciplinary approaches. Our academic team is diverse, comprising a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, and is supported by a robust national and international academic network.

Contributing to the development of the region and society

We are committed to contributing to the economic, social and cultural growth of our region and community. We aim to achieve this by sharing knowledge, promoting its application and transfer, encouraging entrepreneurship, and facilitating public, cultural, and scientific discussions.

In pursuing the three founding elements of our mission, we also aim to:

Actively contribute to the evolution of the Swiss academic system

We are dedicated to ensuring that Switzerland maintains a strong presence on the international stage through collaboration within the framework of swissuniversities. We believe that our country's competitiveness, dynamism, and overall economic, social, and cultural prosperity are closely tied to the quality of its education, research, and knowledge-sharing systems.

Fostering the values of Italian-speaking culture

As the only University of Italian language and culture in Switzerland, we are committed to enhancing the cultural dignity of the Italian-speaking component of the Confederation and to protecting a heritage - that of the Italian language, literature and civilisation - which is not only a pillar of Swiss plurality, but also the heritage of humanity as a whole.

What we believe

Create freely,
act responsibly.

We carry out our mission inspired by three core values: quality, openness and responsibility. These values have their roots in our history and are in turn the roots of our present and our future. We believe that those with a goal will find a way. Quality, openness and responsibility will guide us in identifying the correct path.

Quality

We strive to achieve high levels of quality in everything we do, from our education and research to all our initiatives and proposals. The unwavering commitment of our entire community to this goal creates a stimulating and ambitious environment, nurturing a culture that invites you to push your own limits.

Openness

We embrace global openness and foster our mission by creating a diverse academic community and a worldwide network of collaborations. We believe that exposure to different perspectives, lifestyles, and dreams enriches us all. We encourage the exchange of disciplines and ideas, promoting dialogue without barriers as a means to cultivate critical thinking, open-mindedness, and the freedom to create.

Responsibility

We are aware of our responsibility to the society of today and in building the society of tomorrow. We embrace the challenges of the present, anticipating those of the future, and strive to contribute, through knowledge, to understanding and addressing them. We promote ethical action, characterised by integrity and responsibility.



Our standards of conduct

Thanks to our Code of Ethics, we ensure that our activities are conducted according to the rules we have set for ourselves, providing a healthy and peaceful environment in which to evolve.

We are committed to recognising, adopting and respecting the principles upon which the university community is built and lives. We act by these principles, ensuring consistency between our statements and actions and giving meaning to the fundamental concept of integrity.

Respect

We respect others and ourselves. We recognise the intrinsic value, uniqueness and dignity of every individual. We contribute to creating a community based on inclusion, diversity and freedom of thought, where everyone feels heard, valued and protected.

Honesty

We act with fairness and transparency, laying the foundations for trust and collaboration. We act and communicate authentically and truthfully. We contribute to building a community that respects the rules it has set for itself, ensuring objectivity and impartiality.

Reliability

We place trust in others and earn trust in return. We fulfil our commitments and keep our word, guaranteeing quality and consistency.

Responsibility

We take responsibility for our choices and recognise the impact our actions have on others and on the community we belong to.

Full document available at usi.ch/codeofethics

Individual and institutional commitment to adherence to these principles in ensuring fair interpersonal relations at all levels and in all activities is the foundation of the university community. Code of Ethics, Ch 1, Art 2

Our goal

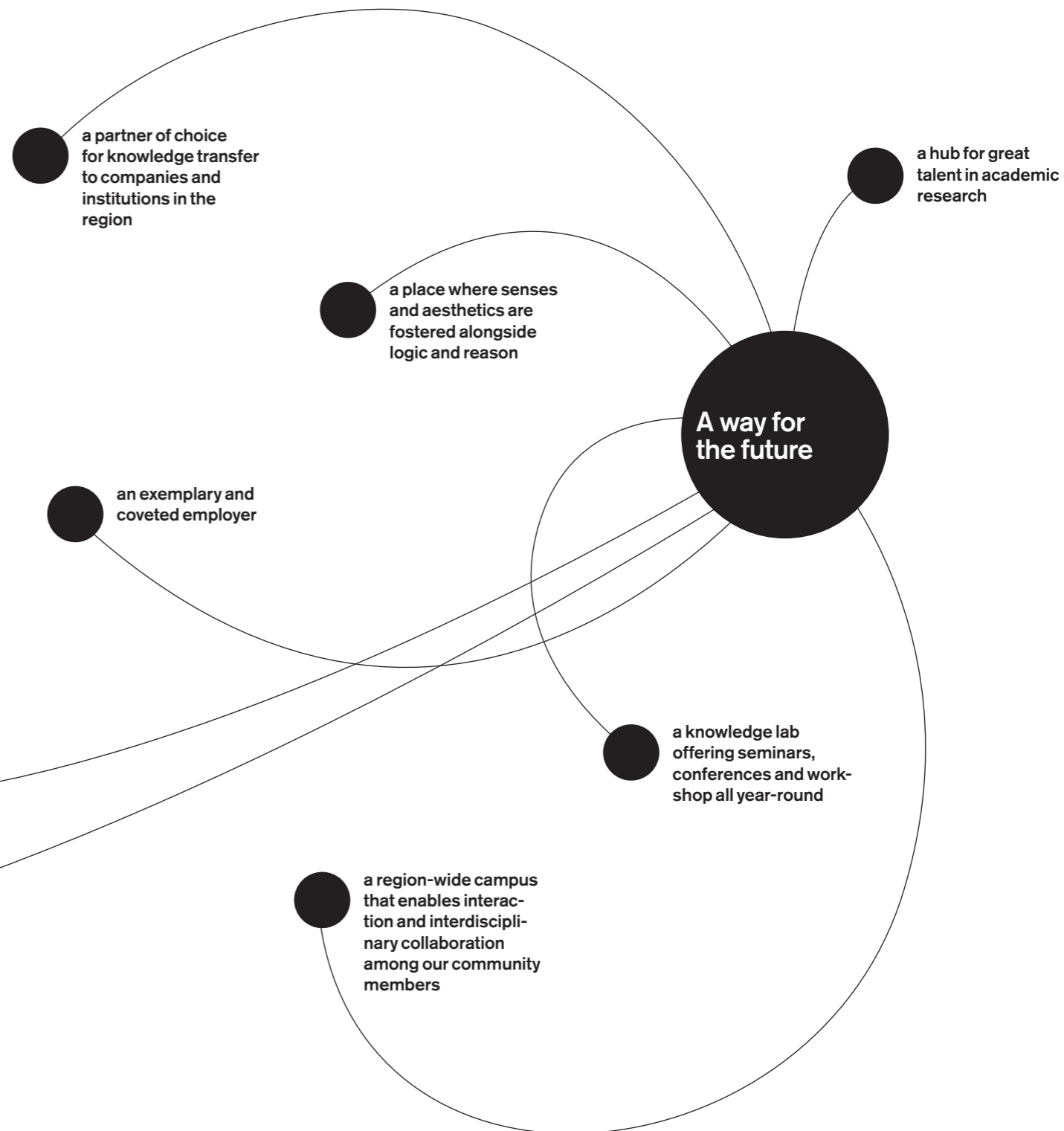
We aspire to become the natural choice for those yearning to grow intellectually, humanly, and responsibly.



an agile and people-oriented institution that respects and fosters diversity

a driver for a sustainable society

The goal is ambitious, but we are committed every day to making this vision for our future a reality.



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