

Leopold-Franzens University of Innsbruck – Charter on Social Diversity

The Leopold-Franzens University of Innsbruck is committed to the existence of diverse identities and cultures within and between groups of people and societies, along with the promotion of prejudice-free and peaceful interaction with this diversity. The University perceives diversity and change as sources of exchange, renewal and creativity. Following the tradition of the Enlightenment, it is committed to overcoming the challenges of an ever-changing society and to preserving democratic, humane, social and gender-fair principles. In so doing, the University not only fulfils its teaching and research responsibilities, it also meets its basic societal obligations as stipulated in the University Statutes (§ 1 UG 2002).

In fulfilling these obligations, the Leopold Franzens University seeks to enter into dialog with all people, groups and institutions that want to contribute to a pluralistic society. In particular, the University addresses those who feel insecure in view of violent and military conflicts and who want to obtain information about causes and underlying conditions. This situation requires us to maintain an open mind, to counter polemics and half-truths with arguments, and to be ready for dialog. The University of Innsbruck strives to make discussions more objective, involving scientists from the most diverse fields with the widest expertise. In light of the fact that conflicts and coping with them are part of human interaction, the University of Innsbruck is deeply committed to opposing polemics and half-truths with reason and arguments and to promoting communication in a pluralistic society.

With these principles in mind, the University of Innsbruck extends an invitation, to both members and people from outside, to a variety of events covering current issues. These include questions of social diversity in "migration societies", education and training, the relationship between religions, violence and politics, the coexistence of different cultures, and the responsibility or the failure of nations and politics to solve these problems, etc. In this context, the university would like to provide space for communication, a space where people can obtain information, can meet and exchange opinions, and where fears and opposing interests are voiced openly.