

# **Learning is for Life**

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The University of the Third Age (U3A) movement is an unique and exciting organisation which provides, through its U3As, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery!

Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them.

The U3A movement is supported by its national organisation, the Third Age Trust. Find out more about U3A at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

## **PRINCIPLES OF THE THIRD AGE 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**

Each U3A is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the U3A Movement.

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.