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# U3A principles

The U3A ethos is based on three principles:

## The Third Age Principle:

* Membership of a U3A is open to all in their third age.
* 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.
* Learning is 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 U3A movement.
* No payments are made to members for services to any U3A.
* Each U3A is self-funded with membership subscriptions kept as low as possible.
* Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the U3A.