

# **The Cambridge Hellenic Learned Society Constitution**

## **1. Name**

The Cambridge Hellenic Learned Society

## **2. Classification according to the Charity Commission guidelines**

Small charity with an annual income under £5,000 that doesn't own a building or employ people and does not intend to register with the Charity Commission

## **3. Mission**

- (a) To serve as a professional and social network for the membership living and working in Cambridge, UK and the surrounding areas
- (b) To provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of significant cultural and scientific issues of interest to the membership
- (c) To provide a source of expertise and advice for various cultural and scientific issues of interest to Greece and Cyprus
- (d) The society will never become affiliated with specific political parties or movements

## **4. Governance**

The society will be managed by a committee of 13 trustees. The founding trustees are listed at the end of this document and will serve for 2 years in the first instance. Henceforth, new trustees will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The activities and accounts of the society will be presented during the AGM.

## **5. Membership**

Membership to the society will be either by invitation by the trustees or by application to the trustees. Membership will be open to the following groups: (a) Professional (with a Bachelor's degree or higher) and academic (members of staff of Universities in Cambridge) people living and working in Cambridge and the surrounding areas. (b) Post-graduate students (PhD candidates and post-doctoral fellows or equivalents) in the Universities in Cambridge or in the University-recognised Institutes. Although all activities will be open to all, undergraduate students are not encouraged to apply for membership. The trustees may remove a person's membership by a majority vote if they believe it is in the best interests of the society.

## **6. Annual membership fee**

In order to carry out the activities of the Society, there will be an annual membership fee of £15. An updated list of all members will be kept at all times.

## **7. Activities of the Society**

- (a) Social and professional gatherings. The society will organise several times each year gatherings of social and/or professional nature. The former will include parties (for example during Christmas, Easter or the summer) whereas the latter will include talks by members of the society or by prominent speakers invited from the UK or from abroad.

- (b) Debates and position papers. For issues of importance for Greece and/or Cyprus, the society may organise debates and roundtable discussions that could be written up as position papers.
- (c) Networking and mentoring. The society will create a digital network that will include the names and professions of the members that are willing to disclose this information. This network will be able to be assessed for collaboration and mentoring purposes by other members in Cambridge and by interested colleagues from abroad.
- (d) Financial aid. The society may occasionally contribute financially to deserving individuals from Greece or Cyprus who want to come for short term visits to Cambridge for work-related purposes.

## **8. AGM**

- (a) The AGM must be held every year, with 30 days notice given to all members informing them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept at the AGM
- (b) There must be at least 20 members present at the AGM
- (c) Every member has a vote
- (d) During the AGM the trustees will present the accounts of the society and will give an overview of the past activities
- (e) Any member may stand for election as a trustee
- (f) Members shall elect 13 trustees to serve for the next two years. New candidate trustees must be nominated by at least one serving trustee, whereas other candidate trustees already serving can be self-nominated. Following a vote, the top 13 trustees will be elected for the new term. All trustees will retire at the AGM two years later but may stand for election.
- (g) The trustees will elect a president, a vice president a secretary and a treasurer of the society in their first meeting following elections

## **9. Trustee meetings**

- (a) Trustees must hold at least 3 meeting each year
- (b) At least 8 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to make decisions. Minutes shall be kept at each meeting
- (c) Decisions at trustee meetings will be by simple majority rule
- (d) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided

## **10. Money and property**

- (a) Money and property must only be used for the purposes of the society
- (b) Trustees must keep accounts which can be seen by anybody on request
- (c) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses
- (d) Money must be held in the society's bank account. All cheques must be signed by two trustees one of which must be the treasurer and the second the president or the vice president.

## **11. General meetings**

The two main reasons to call a general meeting are either to change the constitution or to wind up the society. Such meeting can also be called by the majority of all members.

- (a) Changes to the constitution – Require two thirds majority of the membership and cannot result in altering the character of the society as a charity
- (b) Winding up – Requires two thirds majority. Any money remaining after payment of debts to be given to the Greek school of Cambridge or a similar Institution.

## **12. Setting up the Society**

This constitution was adopted on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 by the people whose signatures appear below. They are the first members of the society and will be the trustees until the first AGM which will be called in two years time

Signature	Name and address
	Theodora Alexopoulou Senior Research Associate Dept of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Univ of Cambridge
	Anastasia Christophilopoulou PhD Research assistant Department of Antiquities The Fitzwilliam Museum
	Thanasis Fokas MD PhD Chair in Nonlinear Mathematical Science University of Cambridge
	Effrossyni Gkrania-Klotsas MD PhD Consultant in Infectious Diseases Department of Infectious Diseases, Cambridge Univ Hospitals
	Katerina Homenidou PhD Economist Cambridge Econometrics (ret)
	Regina Karousou-Fokas PhD Affiliated Lecturer Modern Greek Section University of Cambridge
	Napoleon Katsos PhD Senior Lecturer Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics University of Cambridge
	Angelos-Emmanouil Klotsas MD MSc Consultant in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology
	Angelos Kollias BM, MSc, MRCS Neurosurgical Registrar Clinical Research Associate Department of Clinical Neurosciences Cambridge Univ Hospitals

Aliki Kosteli PhD  
Medical student  
University of Cambridge

Nikos Ktistakis PhD  
Group Leader  
Babraham Institute

Miltos Krokidis MD, PhD, EBIR  
Consultant Vascular and Interventional Radiologist  
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Christos Tsirogiannis PhD  
Archeologist, Researcher  
University of Glasgow