

German Association for the Study of British Cultures

Constitution

§1 Name and location of the Association

1. The name of the Association is “Deutsche Gesellschaft für das Studium britischer Kulturen / German Association for the Study of British Cultures”.
2. It is to be entered in the Register of Association. According to the entry, it has the name: “Deutsche Gesellschaft für das Studium britischer Kulturen e.V. / German Association for the Study of British Cultures e.V.”
3. The Association has its address in Bochum.

§2 Purpose of the Association

1. The purpose of the Association is to support academic work and education, i.e. to promote academic and didactic activity at universities, other institutes of Higher Education, schools and other educational institutions in their research and teaching in the field of British and other English-speaking cultures. This support is to be provided especially through the organization of academic conferences, the publication of academic and didactic research work, the exchange of research findings, and the encouragement of early-career scholars.
2. The Association works together with organizations at home and abroad which share the same interests.

§3 Charitable status

1. The Association does not operate for profit. The Association is in exclusive, direct and selfless pursuit of charitable purposes as defined in the Charitable Status decree of 24.01.1953.
2. The Association finances itself through membership subscriptions and donations. Surplus funds may only be used for the purposes set out in the constitution.
3. The members receive no payment from the Association’s funds. They have no claim on the assets of the Association upon termination of their membership or upon the dissolution or winding up of the Association. Nobody may benefit from administrative work that is not in accordance with the purpose of the Association or from disproportionately high reimbursement.

§4 Financial year

The financial year is the calendar year.

§5 Constituent bodies of the Association

The constituent bodies of the Association are:

1. The General Meeting (§8)
2. The Executive Committee (§9)
3. The Advisory Committee (§10)

§6 Membership

1. Anyone who supports the Association's purposes can be a member of the Association. Corporate membership is possible.
2. Membership is established through a written application and its acceptance by the executive committee.
3. The amount of the annual subscription is set through a resolution of the General Meeting.
4. Membership is terminated with the dissolution of the Association or the death, resignation or expulsion of the member.
5. Resignation must be tendered in writing and is effective at the expiry of the financial year.
6. Resignation does not give exemption from the membership fee for the current year.
7. Resolutions to reject an applicant or to expel a member are made by the Executive Committee. The resolution must be justified to the person in question. Anyone who is rejected or expelled can appeal within six weeks of receiving the resolution. The appeal will go to the next General Meeting for a final resolution, whereby rejection or expulsion requires a two-thirds majority of the General Meeting.

§7 Right to vote

Every member has the right to vote.

§8 General meeting

1. There must be an Annual General Meeting. Extraordinary General Meetings may be called if the interest of the Association requires it or if at least one quarter of the members demand it.
2. The Annual General Meeting is called by the executive committee. The invitation must be made to members in writing at least 21 days before the first day of the meeting and must include the agenda, the place and the time.
3. Planned alterations to the constitution must be sent to members together with the invitation to the General Meeting.
4. The General Meeting discusses and decides about:
 - a. the election, dismissal of the Executive Committee, and approval of its activities,
 - b. the report of the Executive Committee,
 - c. the Treasurer's financial report and the level of the membership fee,
 - d. the election of two financial auditors, who may not be members of the executive committee,
 - e. changes to the constitution,
 - f. the rejection and expulsion of members in case of an appeal (cf. §6.7),
 - g. the place and theme of the Association's annual conferences,
 - h. aims and activities of the Association,
 - i. the dissolution of the Association.
5. The General Meeting elects the members of the Advisory Committee for the duration of two years.
6. The General Meeting makes its resolutions on a simple majority of votes from those present. A two-thirds majority of members present is required for changes to the constitution, for the dismissal of the Executive Committee, and for the dissolution of the Association.
7. The General Meeting is competent to make resolutions when it has been convened in accordance with the rules.
8. Resolutions of the General Meeting must be recorded in minutes, which must be signed by two members of the Executive Committee and one minute-taker. Such minutes must be sent to the members within three months after the close of the General Meeting.

§9 Executive committee

1. The Executive Committee consists of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Treasurer. As far as the definition in §26 of the BGB (= German civil law code) is concerned, the Executive Committee consists of the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Each of the latter two may individually act on behalf of the Association.
2. The Executive Committee is elected for a period of three years by a secret ballot of the General Meeting. The Chair may be re-elected once.
3. If a member of the Executive Committee withdraws prematurely, the Executive Committee maintains its number by cooption until the next General Meeting.
4. The Executive Committee manages the affairs of the Association. It takes care of those matters which are not the preserve of the General Meeting.
5. In the event of changes in the editorial committee of the Journal for the Study of British Cultures, the Executive Committee must reach agreement with the editors of the journal.
6. The Executive Committee can establish standing orders for its work.
7. The Executive Committee makes its resolutions by a majority of votes. Written resolutions are permissible.

§10 Advisory committee

1. The Advisory Committee supports the work of the Executive Committee.
2. It consists of at least 3 and at most 6 members, who should represent the participating groups (e.g. students, lecturers, professors).
3. There should be a net equal representation of the sexes in the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee together.

§11 Control of finances

1. The financial auditors elected by the General Meeting are there to check the annual statement of accounts and to report on the results to the General Meeting.
2. The Executive Committee members are obliged to disclose information to the financial auditors.

§12 Dissolution of the Association

1. The Association can only be dissolved by the General Meeting with a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

2. In the event of the dissolution of the Association or the lapsing of its present purpose, any remaining assets will be transferred to a public body or a recognized not-for-profit body whose purpose is the furtherance of academic engagement with British and other English-speaking cultures in the spirit of the constitution.
3. The decision on this will be made by the Executive Committee that is in office at the time of liquidation.

§13 Date of effectiveness of the constitution

The foregoing constitution was formally approved by the participants at the foundation meeting on 23.11.2001. The constitution came into effect upon being entered in the Register of Associations at district court of PLACE on DATE.