



SCIENCE FOR ALL

‘Science for All’ is a not-for-profit organisation that supports everyone in the world to get involved in shaping the future of human knowledge.

Purpose

‘Science for All’ is an organisation which exists to facilitate the learning, sharing and creation of knowledge. We enable people to share knowledge and ideas, use the scientific method to create new knowledge and support more people to get involved in shaping the future of human knowledge. Learn more at ScienceForAll.World

Our Values

‘Science for All’ is founded on core values. We are seeking feedback on these values – please contact info@scienceforall.world or complete this form to share feedback. Our values are:

1. We are not-for-profit – working for all life on earth

- We value outcomes that everyone is involved in creating – including ones which could be measured in biodiversity, happiness indexes and often – are currently immeasurable.
- We recognise the need to be inclusive, and therefore, to pay people for their time, skills and expertise. When we work in economic structures, we do so only to support our values, not to make profit at the expense of others.
- We do not seek to impose our values (or other values such as economic outcome measures) on any life on earth.
- We value human rights, but also note that ‘rights’ don’t start and end with humans – we seek to explore what ‘working for all life on earth’ means in any way possible.

2. We value the freedom to ask any question, using the scientific method wherever possible

- Asking a question can be the most simple, most profound or the most complex thing we can do as a species. Questions like ‘why?’ and ‘why not?’ are powerful.
- The freedom to ask the questions is essential, and we hope to support people everywhere to ask any question they feel is important.
- Some questions can be answered using the ‘scientific method’ – which essentially seeks to build our knowledge by asking questions, making observations about the available reality and using this to make predictions. If the predictions can be tested – or are repeatable – others can verify results. We value this method of asking questions, ‘peer review’, sharing open data and results – new knowledge, for free, for everyone.
- We recognise the limits of the scientific method and that some things can never be ‘known’ or ‘peer reviewed’.

3. We support the principles of democracy, the ‘rule of law’ and evidence-informed policy wherever we can

- We support the United Nation’s statement on democracy, including that ‘democracy is a universal value’ and that the principles of ‘democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing’¹.

- We also accept that there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region. To uphold human rights and for ‘the maintenance of peace’, we agree that people require ‘media freedom’ in order to ‘seek, receive and impart information’¹.
 - We support decisions and policies which are informed by evidence, preferably created from open data, shared freely and peer-reviewed by those who are collectively defined as experts. We do not support decisions or policy which appears to be informed by real or perceived conflicting or competing interests. We do not align with any political ‘parties’ or ideologies, and will only work with elected representatives to help uphold the values articulated in this document.
 - We recognise ‘law’ and ‘lore’ as forms of knowledge which must evolve and interact with reality and language. We support universal access to this kind of knowledge. We believe the purpose and enforcement of these laws must be collectively decided in the interests of all life on earth. We support the principle of the rule of law, which implies that every person is subject to the law, including people who are lawmakers, law enforcement officials, elected representatives and judges. However, we recognise that that are often multiple, sometimes competing or conflicting systems of ‘law’ and ‘lore’, and concepts of ‘property’. We will always be guided transparently and collectively when navigating any conflicts or competing interests.
- 4. We are transparent and accountable**
- We support transparent decision making, reporting and evaluation.
 - We aspire to be as transparent as possible. We will always publicly disclose any funding or ‘in kind’ donations.
 - We recognise that real or perceived conflicting or competing interests can damage trust, and we will do everything we can to avoid any doubt with regards to the motives of our actions being anything other than aligned with our values.
 - We accept that some things may have to be confidential (for example, storing confidential personal information to align with privacy laws) and we will always work transparently, inviting everyone to be involved in helping us get the balance right between privacy and transparency as the world evolves with new technologies.
 - We expect and encourage others to hold us to account, to make sure we do what we say we do, and act as we say we do. Transparency is the best tool to enable this.
 - We will always try to understand the effect or impact of our actions – and work openly with anyone who can help us improve how we are measuring this. This will help ensure we are doing things the best way we can.
- 5. We include everyone we can as best we can in every aspect of our work**
- ‘Organisations’ are people working together towards a shared goal or purpose – and everyone is welcome to get involved.
 - We will be transparent about who is involved, how we are supporting people to stay involved, how we are working to involve new people and will always welcome ideas about how we can improve this.
 - Ensuring we are inclusive and do not knowingly ‘exclude’ anyone is central to our way of working
- 6. We know that science means knowledge, and knowledge takes many forms**
- We recognise that knowledge takes many forms – this includes people who are subject area experts, people with personal experience, people with traditional, indigenous or local knowledge, artists – and those with big dreams and big ideas
 - Linguistic labels like ‘knowledge’, ‘skills’, ‘expert’, ‘artist’, ‘patient’ and citizen can be both helpful and unhelpful. Wherever possible we will include people in helping us define what we mean when we use these words.
 - Some things are knowable, some things are not – we work to explore the limits of what knowledge means – with everyone, for all life on earth.

Immutable values

While these values will evolve, we will keep an immutable record of our values. They will always be shared in the public domain on the ‘Science for All’ website, and regularly archived on the ‘Internet Archive’ for future reference.

Our values will be reviewed annually – with a process for involving the public, with final approval going to a vote in the Auspices Committee. This review process may change over time but will always require and invite public scrutiny.

References

1. United Nations. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; 1948. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf. Accessed February 5, 2018.