INITIATIVE BRIEF · OCTOBER 2026

THE Authors' Corner

Where the ideas shaping higher education meet the leaders shaping universities.



WUF
WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

AN INITIATIVE OF THE
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SECTION ONE

At a glance

THE Authors' Corner

Where the ideas shaping higher education meet the leaders shaping universities.

WHAT A year-round initiative of the World Universities Foundation, WUF, that connects the authors, publishers and university presses whose work shapes higher education with the presidents, rectors, vice-chancellors and provosts who lead the world's universities. It brings selected books into every gathering of university leaders it joins, carries them through the year by a video podcast, a digest and publications, and supports them with open-access, digital, collection and short-run printing services.

WHY The ideas that will define the university of the coming decades are being published now, in every region and in many languages. Too few of them reach the leaders who will decide that future, and too few authors ever stand before those leaders. The Authors' Corner closes that distance.

WHEN Founded in 2025 and open all year, every year. Membership runs for twelve months from the day a member joins. The Authors' Corner Selection, chosen by the Editorial Council, is announced every year from 2027.

WHO Living authors whose work shapes higher education, in any language; publishers and university presses; university leaders; libraries, institutions and partners in every region of the world.

HOW Every title passes the review of the Editorial Council. Each member chooses one of four ways to take part: Shelf, Signature, Imprint or Folio. The book is presented wherever the Corner gathers, heard on the video podcast, featured in the digest and carried further by the publishing services.

OUTCOME A trusted meeting place where the finest thinking on the university reaches the people able to act on it, and where authors and leaders build relationships that last well beyond a single gathering.

THE ASK Authors and publishers: submit your book to the Editorial Council. University leaders: take your seat in the conversation. Partners: stand behind open access, gift copies and the programs of the Corner.

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SECTION TWO

The challenge

Higher education has never lacked ideas. In every region of the world, scholars, practitioners and former university leaders are publishing serious work on what the university is for, how it should be governed, how it must teach and research in an age of intelligent machines, how it should answer the climate crisis, and how it can open its doors to the millions still waiting outside them. Much of this work is wise. Some of it is visionary. A great deal of it will shape the decisions that define the university for a generation.

THE GAP

The distance the Authors' Corner closes is not between authors and readers. It is between the ideas that shape the university and the leaders who decide its future.

Yet the people who most need that thinking are the people least able to find it. A president or a rector carries the weight of an entire institution: its students, its staff, its finances, its standing in society. Their days are claimed by decisions that cannot wait. They rarely have the hours to search catalogs, follow publishers across continents or read widely beyond their own systems. The finest thinking on the university reaches them by chance, through a recommendation or a conference keynote, if it reaches them at all.

The authors face the mirror image of that problem. A scholar whose book could change how universities are led may spend years on it, publish it with care, and then watch it reach a few libraries and a few colleagues. The door to the leaders their work speaks to is closed, not by indifference, but because no one has built a way through it. Exhibition stands and catalogs no longer open it. A single conference appearance opens it for an afternoon.

Publishers and university presses stand between the two. They invest in books on higher education and believe in them, yet they lack a continuing channel to the leadership of the sector. Their authors appear, are applauded and disappear from view. Their titles are launched and then left to find their own way. The value they create is real, but it is not carried far enough or long enough to reach the decisions it could inform.

A world too large to read alone

The university world is the largest community of knowledge on earth, and it thinks and publishes in every language. A leader in Nairobi rarely meets the thinking of an author in Seoul. A press in São Paulo rarely reaches a provost in Amman. Ideas that could travel across systems stay inside them, and the conversation on the university remains fragmented and too often led by a few voices from a few places.

35,000+ UNIVERSITIES	200+ COUNTRIES	260+ million STUDENTS
15+ million ACADEMICS	20+ million ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	1+ million EXECUTIVES AND LEADERS

More than 80 percent of the world's universities have no seat at the global table. Their leaders are seldom invited into the conversations where the future of the sector is debated, and their authors are seldom read beyond their own borders. The challenge is therefore one of representation as much as access: whose thinking is heard, and by whom.

What the sector needs is not another event and not another catalog. It needs a trusted place, open all year, where the most relevant thinking on the university is chosen with care, brought before the leaders who can act on it, and kept in the conversation long enough to make a difference. That place is the Authors' Corner.

EVERY SEAT

More than 80 percent of the world's universities have no seat at the global table. Their leaders and their authors are part of the Corner on equal terms.

> Higher education does not lack ideas. It lacks a trusted place where its ideas and its leaders meet.

SECTION THREE

The initiative

THE Authors' Corner

OUR VISION

A higher education sector led by its best ideas: where every university leader has the finest thinking on the future of the university within reach, and every author whose work can shape that future reaches the people able to act on it.

The Authors' Corner is a year-round initiative of the World Universities Foundation. It connects authors, publishers and university presses with the leaders of higher education through curated presence wherever those leaders gather, a video podcast, a regular digest and publications, and it supports their books with open-access, digital, collection and short-run printing services. Founded in 2025 by Prof. Bassem Khafagy and based in Antalya, it serves the global community of 35,000+ universities.



The Corner is a bridge that runs both ways: leaders gain a trusted source of ideas, and authors gain the leaders their work speaks to.

Mission

To build and sustain a year-round bridge between the authors, publishers and presses of higher education and the leaders of the world's universities: selecting the most relevant work, presenting it wherever leaders gather, and carrying it further and longer through publishing services that serve every region and every language.

Four commitments

Curation. Every title is chosen through the review of the Editorial Council, so that leaders can trust that what they find in the Corner deserves their attention. Selection is earned, never bought. It is this trust that gives the shelf its value to leaders and, through them, to every author whose book stands on it.

Presence. The Authors' Corner is part of every gathering of university leaders it joins, from intimate retreats of a few dozen leaders to summits of thousands, wherever in the world they take place. At each one, selected books are presented, authors meet the leaders their work speaks to, and new titles are launched before an audience that shapes institutions.

Continuity. A gathering lasts a few days. A relationship can last a career. Between gatherings the conversation continues through the video podcast, the digest and the publications, so that a connection made once becomes a lasting relationship between an author and the leaders who read, cite and act on their work.

Reach. Publishing services carry books beyond any single gathering: into institutions and their libraries, across languages and borders, and into the hands of leaders. Open access places important work before every university in the world. Short-run printing in Antalya puts books where the leaders are.

BOTH WAYS

Leaders gain a curated, trusted source of ideas worth their time. Authors and publishers gain a continuing relationship with the people who decide.

A shelf chosen with care is a gift of time to every leader who visits it.

Presence wherever leaders gather

The Authors' Corner travels with the gatherings of university leaders it joins and gives each of them a place set apart for ideas. At every gathering, the Corner presents its selected books on a curated shelf where leaders browse, read and take titles home. Authors meet leaders in conversation on stage, at signings and in small roundtables where a single book opens a candid exchange among a few dozen presidents and rectors. New titles are launched before the audience that matters most to them.

EVERY SCALE

Small gatherings bring depth: candid roundtables and residencies. Large gatherings bring reach: the stage, the launch, the signing line.

A book does not need its author in the room to take its place. A title presented on its own is introduced through a recorded video conversation with its author, playing in the Corner and linked from the shelf, and is presented with other selected titles in a curated session. After every gathering, each participant receives a report on how their book was presented and received.



At every gathering, a curated shelf where leaders browse, read and take titles home.

The video podcast

Every conversation of the Authors' Corner is recorded on video, never in sound alone, because an author's face, voice and conviction carry an argument further than any summary. Authors meet university leaders in conversation, in person at the gatherings of the Corner and online from wherever they are, so that a title presented without its author still brings that author before its audience.

Each conversation lives several lives: as a full episode, as short clips that the author and the leader share with their own communities, as a transcript that can enrich the publications of the Corner, and as a lasting record of the thinking of the year. Every author who shares a clip carries the Corner to new audiences of authors, publishers and leaders. Every guest takes part with a clear agreement on how the recording will be used.



Every conversation is recorded on video, in person or online, and lives on as an episode and as clips shared across the university world.

The digest

A regular digest keeps leaders in touch with the ideas and titles that matter between gatherings. Each edition brings together selected books, the arguments at their heart and the conversations recorded for the video podcast, in a form a busy president or rector can read in minutes and return to at leisure. For authors and publishers, a feature in the digest places a title before the leadership of the sector in every region at once.

Publications

The publications of the Authors' Corner carry the thinking of each gathering forward: volumes of essays, perspectives and conversations drawn from the authors and leaders who met there, released first in digital form and then in print. Over the years they build a library of the conversation on the future of the university, as it unfolds, in the voices of those who shaped it.

The Authors' Corner Selection

From 2027, the Editorial Council will announce the Authors' Corner Selection every year: the titles of the year that the Council considers most valuable to the leaders of higher education, chosen from the books presented in the Corner. The Selection is announced at the close of each year and recognized before the leaders of the world's universities. It gives authors and publishers a distinction that is earned on merit alone, and gives leaders a trusted reading list for the year ahead.

FROM 2027

The Authors' Corner Selection: chosen every year by the Editorial Council, on merit alone, and announced at the close of the year.

> The Selection cannot be bought. It can only be earned, and that is why leaders will read it.

Publishing services

Behind the presence and the channels of the Corner stands a full set of publishing services, designed to carry a book further than any single appearance and to keep it in the conversation for longer.

Open-access editions. Important work made freely available to universities worldwide, often with the support of a partner who is credited for opening it to all. Open access lets a book reach the leaders of institutions that could never purchase it, in every region.

Digital editions. Titles placed before leaders wherever they are, and redeemable by every participant of a gathering, so that a book can reach a whole room of leaders without a single carton crossing a border.

Curated collections. Selected titles brought together for institutions and their libraries, by theme and by the questions leaders face, so that the thinking of the Corner enters the life of whole universities.

Short-run printing in Antalya. Books produced locally for the gatherings of the year, with a full year of storage included at no extra charge, so that a book printed once can serve every gathering of its membership year.

New editions and translations. A book carried into another language and launched before the leaders who will read it there.



Short-run printing in Antalya puts books into the hands of leaders, with a year of storage included.

SECTION FOUR

Why now

The Authors' Corner began in 2025 as a corner within WUF's gatherings of university leaders, where authors shaping the thinking on the future of the university could meet the people who lead it. The response of authors, publishers and leaders showed that the need was larger than any single gathering. In 2026 it became a year-round initiative of the World Universities Foundation, with its own channels, services and membership, open to authors and publishers in every region and every language.

A decade of decisions. Artificial intelligence, climate, access, financing and public trust are reshaping the university at once. The decisions taken in these years will define institutions for a generation, and deserve the deepest thinking available.

Publishing has become global. Open access, digital editions and curated collections now allow a book to travel to every university in the world. The means exist; what is missing is the trusted channel that brings the right book to the right leader.

Relationships hold the value. For authors and publishers, lasting access to decision makers now matters more than any single appearance. The Corner is built for the relationship, not the moment.



The decisions taken in these years will define the university for a generation.

SECTION FIVE

Stakeholders and beneficiaries

The Authors' Corner represents the entire world: authors and leaders of every region, every type of university and every language. Each group that meets in the Corner brings something the others need, and each leaves with more than it brought.

Authors. Living authors whose books explore the university and its future bring their ideas, their research and their experience. They gain a year before the leaders their work speaks to: conversations, signings, an episode of the video podcast, a feature in the digest and, for the finest titles, a place in the Selection.

Publishers. Publishers bring their lists and their authors. They gain a continuing channel to the leadership of higher education, meetings with leaders interested in their fields, and evidence of how their titles were presented and received.

University presses. University presses bring the scholarship of their universities. They gain reach to decision makers far beyond their own systems, and a shelf on which their titles stand beside the work of the world's leading publishers.

University leaders. Presidents, rectors, vice-chancellors and provosts bring their questions, their judgment and their experience. They gain the finest thinking on their decisions, chosen with care, and direct conversation with the authors behind it.

Libraries and institutions. Libraries and institutions bring their readers and their collections. They gain curated titles on the future of the university, in print, digital and open-access editions.

Partners. Partners bring support for open access, gift copies and programs. They gain lasting association with the ideas that shape universities in every region.

The Corner is not a marketplace of books. It is a meeting of minds across the university world.

Open to every author whose work explores the university

The shelf of the Authors' Corner is open to every living author whose work explores the university, in any language and from any region. A first book from a new university stands on the same shelf, and is heard with the same respect, as the work of the most established author. The Corner welcomes scholarship, reflection and practice alike, across the questions that leaders face.

EVERY REGION

Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, North America, Oceania and the small island states.

01 The future of the university

02 Leadership and governance

03 Teaching and learning

04 Research and innovation

05 Technology and artificial intelligence

06 Climate and sustainability

07 Wisdom and ethics in academia

08 Access and inclusion

09 Universities and society



Publishers and university presses meet leaders interested in their fields, all year.

SECTION SIX

Value and expected outcomes

The value of the Authors' Corner grows with every year it runs. Each gathering adds books to its shelf, conversations to its library and relationships to its community, and each year of the Selection adds to the authority of its judgment.

IN THE SHORT TERM, 2026 TO 2027

The year membership opens to authors and publishers in every region. The video podcast and the digest are established and find their audience among leaders. The first gatherings place the Corner at their heart, and the publishing services become available to every member. The first Authors' Corner Selection is announced at the close of 2027.

IN THE MEDIUM TERM, 2028 TO 2030

The Corner is present at gatherings of university leaders across the world. Curated collections enter institutions and their libraries. Translations and open-access editions grow every year, and the library of recorded conversations becomes a resource in its own right for leaders, authors and scholars.

IN THE LONG TERM, THE DECADE AHEAD

The Authors' Corner becomes the trusted meeting place of ideas and leaders in higher education. Every region and every language is present on its shelf. Its publications form a body of thinking on the future of the university, and its community of authors and leaders endures across careers.

> When the best ideas reach the leaders who decide, the university changes for the better.

Value on both sides of the bridge

The Authors' Corner succeeds only if both sides of its bridge gain. Leaders must find in it a source of thinking worth their scarce time, and authors and publishers must find in it a relationship worth a year of their commitment. Every part of its design serves that balance.

For authors, a year before the leaders their work speaks to, a voice on the video podcast, a Certificate of Selection to share and the chance of a place in the annual Selection.

For publishers and presses, a continuing presence with the leadership of higher education and evidence of how their titles were received.

For university leaders, a curated source of the finest thinking on their decisions and direct conversation with the authors behind it.

For institutions, collections and editions that bring that thinking into their own communities.

For the university world, ideas that travel across regions, languages and systems, and a shared conversation on its future.



Around one table, a single book opens a candid exchange among leaders from every region.

SECTION SEVEN

How it works

A year with the Authors' Corner

Membership of the Authors' Corner is a full year with the Corner, wherever it appears: at every gathering of university leaders it joins, through its channels and through its services. The year begins on the day a member joins and runs for twelve months, so that every member receives a full year whatever the season.

Membership is not tied to any single gathering or set of gatherings. As the Corner joins new gatherings in new regions, its members are present at every one of them. What membership guarantees does not depend on travel: every member title is presented throughout the year, whether or not its author or publisher attends.

Selected and certified. Every member title passes the review of the Editorial Council and receives a Certificate of Selection, ready to share, on final approval.

Presented all year. The member's book travels with the Corner and is presented at every gathering of the membership year, as many as there are.

Heard and seen. A conversation on the video podcast, a feature in the digest and a place in curated collections.

Measured. A year-end report on how the book was presented and received, with priority for launches and stage conversations, and member terms on every publishing service.

WHEREVER IT APPEARS

Members take part at every gathering of their year. Those who attend in person cover their own travel and receive member terms and priority.

> A member who never travels still has a full year of presence. A member who travels has a seat wherever the Corner gathers.

Four ways to take part

Each member chooses how present they wish to be. The four ways to take part carry the names of the book itself, from the shelf where it stands to the folio, the grandest form a book can take.

THE BOOK PRESENTED

Shelf

The book takes its place without anyone attending. It stands on the curated shelf at every gathering of the year, is introduced by a recorded video conversation with its author, is presented in a curated session and is featured in the digest. Every participant receives a report on how it was received.

THE BOOK IN PERSON

Signature

The author or the publisher attends. An author joins leaders in conversation, signs copies and records for the video podcast in person. A publisher meets leaders interested in the field and presents the list.

AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER TOGETHER

Imprint

Author and publisher attend together, the intellectual and the professional sides of a book side by side, with priority for stage conversations and roundtables.

THE COMPLETE YEAR

Folio

Full presence through the whole year, gift copies placed in the hands of leaders, and a launch before an audience of university leaders: everything the Corner offers, for the book that deserves it.

Each way to take part is open as a year of membership. Taking part in a single gathering remains open to authors and publishers who are not yet members, and is the natural first step toward a year with the Corner. Current terms are published by the Authors' Corner.

Additions that open new doors

Any way of taking part can be extended with additions that open new doors for a book.

Gift copies. A book placed in the hands of every leader at a gathering, or across several, printed in Antalya or shipped by its publisher. A book received from the hand of its author is a book remembered.

Book launch. A premiere before an audience of university leaders, with the first copies presented, a launch episode of the video podcast and the attention of the Corner before and after.

New edition or translation. A title carried into another language and launched where its new readers gather.

Open-access edition. A title opened to every university in the world, with credit to the partner who makes it possible.



A signed copy, received from the hand of its author, is a book remembered.

Residencies and launches

Some of the most valuable moments of the Corner happen at its smallest scale. At leadership retreats, where a few dozen leaders spend several days together, an author in residence leads open conversations around their book, joins leaders at the table and in the evening, and becomes, for those days, a colleague rather than a speaker. A residency is the most intimate form of presence the Corner offers, and the one leaders remember longest.

At the other end of the scale, the largest gatherings give the Corner its stage. There a new book can be launched before an audience of leaders from every region, with its first copies presented, its author in conversation and its launch carried by the video podcast and the digest to the whole community of the Corner.



An author in residence leads an open conversation among leaders from every region.

Joining

1

Submit

Submit your book to the Editorial Council for review.

2

Selection

Selected titles receive the Certificate of Selection.

3

Choose

Choose Shelf, Signature, Imprint or Folio, and any additions.

4

Confirm

Confirm your membership. The year begins and your book takes its place.

The rules of the shelf

Four simple rules keep the shelf open to the world and worthy of its readers. The Authors' Corner presents the work of living authors. Books in any language are welcome. A publisher presents up to three authors, so that no list can crowd out the others. And every title is reviewed by the Editorial Council before it takes its place.

FOUR RULES

Living authors. Every language. Up to three authors per publisher. Every title reviewed.

The rhythm of the year

The year of the Corner follows the gatherings it joins. Before each gathering, new titles are selected, recorded conversations are released and leaders are invited to the Corner. During the gathering, books are presented, authors meet leaders and conversations are recorded. After it, every participant receives a report, the recordings carry the gathering to the wider community, and the next gathering is prepared. At the close of each year, from 2027, the Editorial Council announces the Authors' Corner Selection.

Certificate and report

Every selected title receives a Certificate of Selection, issued on behalf of the Editorial Council on final approval and ready to share with the author's and the publisher's own communities. At the close of each membership year, every member receives a report on how the book was presented and received across the gatherings of the year: where it stood, the sessions in which it was presented, the conversations recorded and the response of leaders, shared with their agreement.

SECTION EIGHT

Roadmap and timeline

2025

Founded

The Authors' Corner is founded by Prof. Bassem Khafagy as a corner within WUF's gatherings of university leaders.

2026

A year-round initiative

The Corner becomes an initiative of the World Universities Foundation, with its channels, its publishing services and the year membership.

2027

The first full year

Membership open worldwide. The Corner at the heart of gatherings of university leaders, the video podcast and the digest in full rhythm, and the first Authors' Corner Selection announced at the close of the year.

2028 onward

Every year

New gatherings, regions and languages; collections in institutions; publications on the future of the university; the Selection announced every year.



The Authors' Corner. Where the ideas shaping higher education meet the leaders shaping universities.

SECTION NINE

Home, governance and sustainability

The Authors' Corner is an initiative of the World Universities Foundation, based in Antalya and serving the global community of 35,000+ universities. WUF provides its home, its standards and its place among the gatherings of university leaders, and safeguards the independence on which its value rests.

The Editorial Council

The Editorial Council reviews every title submitted to the Authors' Corner and chooses the Authors' Corner Selection each year. It judges each book on its value to the leaders of higher education: the strength of its ideas, the quality of its scholarship or experience, and its relevance to the decisions universities face. The Council draws its members from every region, so that the shelf reflects the whole university world.

Independence

Selection is never for sale. Every title earns its place through review, and no member, publisher or partner can buy a place on the shelf or in the Selection. Membership determines how a selected book takes part. It never determines whether a book is selected. This separation is the source of the trust that leaders place in the Corner, and therefore of its value to every author and publisher.

> Membership decides how a selected book takes part. Only the Editorial Council decides whether it is selected.

Partners and the gatherings that host the Corner

The Authors' Corner lives inside the gatherings that host it, and its partners stand beside the partners of those gatherings. WUF governs the relationship between them through clear principles. The Corner's partners support books, open access, gift copies and programs of the Corner, and are recognized within the Corner, its channels and its publications. The partners of a host gathering keep every recognition and exclusivity agreed with that gathering. WUF reviews every partnership of the Corner before agreement, so that no partner of the Corner competes with a partner of the gathering that hosts it, and a partner may support both when both agree. No partner of either ever shapes what is selected.

Sustainability

The Authors' Corner sustains itself through membership, additions, publishing services and partnerships. Its revenues fund its gatherings, its channels and its growth into new regions and languages, year after year, while the Editorial Council keeps its judgment free of all of them.



Curated collections carry the thinking of the Corner into the libraries of whole universities.

SECTION TEN

Risks, assumptions and safeguards

The Authors' Corner rests on a few assumptions: that leaders will make time for thinking chosen with care, that authors and publishers value lasting relationships over single appearances, and that a shelf open to the whole world can keep a single standard. Each carries a risk, and each risk is met by design.

The shelf losing its standard	Review of every title by the Editorial Council, and a Selection that cannot be bought.
Presence that depends on travel	A full year of presence for every member, whether or not they attend.
A few publishers filling the shelf	No publisher presents more than three authors.
Some regions and languages unheard	Books in every language, and authors and leaders from every region, on equal terms.
Books that fade after one day	The video podcast, the digest, collections and publications carry each title through the year.
Partners shaping the content	Partners support books and programs; they never decide what is selected.
Conflicts with host gatherings	WUF reviews every partnership of the Corner, and host gatherings keep their own partners' recognition.
Use of recorded conversations	Every conversation is recorded with the agreement of those who take part.

SECTION ELEVEN

The call

The Authors' Corner is as strong as the authors, publishers and leaders who meet in it. Its next year begins now, and its shelf is open.

Authors, submit your book to the Editorial Council and spend a year in conversation with the leaders of higher education.

Publishers and university presses, present your authors and your list to the leadership of the world's universities.

University leaders, take your seat in the conversation and bring the finest thinking to your institution.

Partners, stand behind open access, gift copies and the programs that serve universities in every region.



A new book launched before the leaders who will read it.

W-U-F.org · info@w-u-f.org

Prof. Bassem Khafagy
Founder and Secretary General
World Universities Foundation

APPENDIX A

The mark

The corner bracket frames the name as a bookplate frames a page: a place set apart for ideas worth keeping. The name stands in the plural, because the Corner is the meeting point of many authors. Use the mark as it is: no new colors, no stretching, no changes to the lettering. Keep clear space of four bracket widths around it. At small sizes, use the icon: the bracket with the A.











THE

Authors' Corner

Where the ideas shaping higher education meet the leaders shaping universities.

A year-round bridge between the authors, publishers and university presses of higher education and the leaders who shape the world's universities.

WUF

WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

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