

Definition

7 Academic freedom is the freedom for staff and students, acting within the law of England and Wales, to question and test accepted ideas and theories, to advance new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without fear of legal or disciplinary action.

Key aims and principles

8 The University is primarily a teaching and learning institution in which scholarly activity is supported to ensure that the appropriate level of academic standards is maintained and enhanced. Within and consistent with the University's strategies, policies and terms and conditions of employment and/or enrolment, the University supports and protects:

- 8.1 Freedom in teaching and discussion;
- 8.2 Freedom in publishing and carrying out research;
- 8.3 Freedom of expression;
- 8.4 Freedom to participate in professional and representative academic bodies, including University recognised trade unions and;
- 8.5 Freedom in carrying out their roles.

Responsibilities

9 Academic freedom is qualified to the extent that it must co-exist with the University's other core values, strategies, policies and terms and conditions of employment and/or enrolment. In the exercise of academic freedom, staff and students must be mindful of their corresponding responsibilities, namely:

- 9.1 To keep an open mind at all times;
- 9.2 To ensure academic debate is conducted through rational enquiry and supported by demonstrable evidence;
- 9.3 To comply with ethical considerations and the University's Ethics Policy and Procedures when conducting research;
- 9.4 To recognise and articulate clearly where personal belief impinges upon academic debate and judgment;

13 Responsibility for reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of Academic Freedom lies initially with the Academic Enhancement Committee. Formal responsibility for monitoring and evaluation lies with the Vice-Provost, Academic Enhancement.

Version history

Version	Amended by	Revision summary	Date
V1.0	Learning and Teaching Strategy working party	Initial drafting	31/05/14
V1.1	CEO	Comments	04/06/14
V1.2	VP - AGQS	Taken on-board CEO comments	09/06/14
V1.3	Director of HR	Review	10/06/14
V1.4	Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer		