



UZBEKISTAN STATE WORLD LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Date policy approved: September 2021

Date for review of policy: August 2023

1. Purpose This policy aims to affirm and uphold the principles of academic freedom at UzSWLU, ensuring that faculty, researchers, and students can engage in scholarly activities without undue restriction. The policy underscores the importance of academic freedom in fostering intellectual growth, innovation, and critical inquiry within the university community.

2. Scope This policy applies to all members of the UzSWLU academic community, including faculty, researchers, and students. It extends to all academic and research activities, both within the university and in external engagements related to academic work.

3. Principles of Academic Freedom

- **Freedom of Research:** Faculty and researchers have the right to select their research topics and methodologies, and to publish their findings without censorship, provided they adhere to ethical standards and legal requirements. This freedom includes the ability to collaborate with international and local institutions without undue interference.
- **Freedom of Teaching:** Educators are entitled to present their subject matter in the classroom as they deem appropriate, fostering an environment of critical inquiry and open discussion. They are also encouraged to adopt innovative teaching methods that enhance student learning and engagement.
- **Freedom of Expression:** All academic community members may express their views on academic matters, both within and outside the university, without fear of institutional reprisal. This includes participating in public debates, contributing to academic conferences, and engaging with media to discuss their research.
- **Protection Against External Pressures:** The university will protect academic freedom from external pressures, including political, commercial, or other influences, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for research and teaching.

4. Responsibilities

- **Adherence to Ethical Standards:** While exercising academic freedom, individuals must comply with ethical guidelines, respect the rights of others, and ensure that their work adheres to the highest standards of academic integrity.
- **Accuracy and Integrity:** Scholars are expected to maintain accuracy and integrity in their research and teaching, acknowledging limitations and avoiding misrepresentation. This includes proper citation of sources and transparency in research methodologies.
- **Respect for Diversity:** Academic freedom should be exercised with respect for diverse perspectives and in a manner that promotes inclusive dialogue. Faculty and students are encouraged to create an environment where differing viewpoints are welcomed and debated constructively.

5. Implementation

- **Support Structures:** UzSWLU will establish committees or offices to support and protect academic freedom, providing guidance, addressing concerns related to academic rights, and offering training sessions on academic freedom principles and best practices.
- **Grievance Procedures:** Clear procedures will be in place for individuals to report violations of academic freedom, ensuring timely and fair resolution. Complaints will be reviewed by an independent committee to ensure impartiality, and outcomes will be communicated transparently.
- **Training and Awareness:** Regular workshops and seminars will be conducted to educate faculty, researchers, and students about their rights and responsibilities regarding academic freedom. This will help foster a culture of awareness and respect for these principles.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Periodic Review:** This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains aligned with international standards and the evolving needs of the academic community. Amendments will be made as necessary to uphold the principles of academic freedom.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Specific KPIs will be established to monitor the effectiveness of the policy, such as the number of reported grievances, the resolution rate, and feedback from faculty and students on their perception of academic freedom at the university.
- **Accountability Mechanisms:** Senior management will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the policy, and an annual report on academic freedom will be prepared to provide transparency and track progress.

7. References

- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**
- **UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel**
- **Uzbekistan State World Languages University Code of Conduct**

8. Amendments and Updates The policy will be amended as required to reflect changes in national legislation, international best practices, and feedback from the university community. Stakeholders will be consulted during the amendment process to ensure the policy remains relevant and effective.

By adopting this policy, UzSWLU reaffirms its commitment to fostering an environment where academic freedom is respected and protected, recognizing its essential role in the pursuit of knowledge, the advancement of society, and the promotion of intellectual diversity.