

Academic Freedom Policy

Policy Owner	Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Responsible Office	Office of VCAA
Approved By	Chancellor	Effective Date	September 2024
		Next Review Date	September 2027

Purpose

This policy is established to recognize that a focal point of learning, and a major responsibility of a university is the critical examination of ideas and practices. Therefore, it is essential that students, faculty and staff have the academic freedom to express their views in a responsible manner.

Scope

This policy shall apply to all students, faculty and staff at Ajman University.

Policy Statement

Ajman University (AU) defines academic freedom as the right to unrestricted exposition of subjects within one's field in a responsible manner. AU supports academic freedom through a professionally responsible manner with full compliance of the laws, rules and regulations of the United Arab Emirates. This includes the right to unrestricted scholarly research and publication of findings and expression of ideas and beliefs within the limits imposed by the acknowledgment of teaching, learning and academic research activities directly related to one's discipline consistent with the relevant Code of Conduct. Consequently, the freedom to search for truth and its true exposition is essential to AU's mission to foster effective instruction, continuing scholarship, and active service to the community.

In the exercise of academic freedom, AU faculty, staff and students have an obligation to make clear that they are not representing AU or its Board. Therefore, the University cannot be held liable towards a third Party for their exercise of academic freedom. Without appropriate pre-approval, all faculty, staff and students must avoid any action which appears to commit the University to a position on any issue. They must therefore at all times strive to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, and respect the right of others to express their opinions. The exercise of academic freedom must be within the frame of the UAE Legislations.

Any questions or concerns with issues of intellectual or academic freedom at Ajman University should be addressed to College Dean. If the issue is not resolved, it can be raised to the Vice Chancellor's Office.

Miscellaneous

- This policy supersedes any other old related policies, procedures, minutes of the meeting, manuals, handbooks, and bylaws. The Office of the VCAA is responsible for handling any issues that might arise and are not covered in this policy, and raise recommendations for the Chancellor's final discretion.
- In case of conflict between the Arabic and English versions of the Policy, the English one prevails.

Ajman University reserves the right to make changes to its Policies at any time and for any reason. The updated Policy will be deemed to have been delivered, received, and known by all employees one day after posting the updated Policy on the website, or sending the updated version by email. The employee shall comply with the updated Policy since its effective date.

Document History

Version	Date	Update Information	Author/ Reviewer
V 1.0	03/09/2021	Initial policy – extracted from the earlier Non-Discrimination Policy and updated.	Office of VCAA
V 1.1	16/09/2024	The policy has been renewed without changes.	Office of VCAA