



TERMEZ STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY



TERMEZ 2025

1. Purpose

Termez State University (TerSU) affirms its unwavering commitment to academic freedom, recognizing it as a cornerstone of higher education, scholarly research, and societal progress. Academic freedom ensures that faculty, researchers, and students have the right to explore, research, and teach subjects of intellectual inquiry without undue interference or restriction. This policy establishes the principles and procedures that protect the freedom of members of the university community to choose research areas, express ideas, disseminate knowledge, and engage in public discourse related to their scholarly work.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all faculty members, researchers, academic staff, and students of Termez State University. It governs all forms of scholarly activity, including research, teaching, public speaking, publishing, and participation in academic forums or media discussions, whether these occur on campus, at affiliated institutions, or in public spaces. Specifically, intellectual and academic freedom includes the right, without fear of harassment, intimidation or unfair treatment, to:

- Express opinions about the operation of the university and higher education policy more generally;
- Pursue critical open enquiry and to discuss freely, teach, assess, develop curricula, publish and, research within the limits of their professional qualifications, competence and professional standards;
- Develop, interpret and administer policy and procedures within the limits of their professional qualifications, competence and professional standards;
- Participate in public debates and express opinions about issues and ideas related to their discipline area or area of professional expertise;
- Participate in professional and representative bodies and to engage in community service;
- Express unpopular or controversial views.
- Discuss, teach, assess, develop curricula, and engage in community service;
- Research and publish;
- Publish and speak in public debate constrained by a responsibility to reflect scholarly standards;
- Express opinions about the institutions in which they work or are enrolled;
- Participate in decision-making structures and processes within the institution.

3. Principles of Academic Freedom

Termez State University upholds the principle of freedom of inquiry, ensuring that faculty and researchers can select areas of research and investigation based on scholarly interests and societal relevance, without external pressure or restriction. Freedom of expression is guaranteed, allowing members of the university community to present, discuss, and publish their research findings and ideas openly in academic forums, public lectures, conferences, and media platforms. The university also recognizes the autonomy of faculty and instructors to design course content, teaching methods, and pedagogical approaches that reflect academic rigor and scholarly integrity. Members of the university community are protected from retaliation, including disciplinary action, censorship, or discrimination, for exercising their academic freedom in good faith and within the bounds of professional and ethical conduct.

4. Responsibilities of the University

To safeguard academic freedom, Termez State University is committed to ensuring that institutional policies and administrative practices support the autonomous pursuit of scholarly work and teaching. The university provides a safe and inclusive environment where ideas can be expressed and debated without fear of retribution. Clear channels are established for resolving disputes related to alleged infringements of academic freedom. The university promotes public understanding of academic work and encourages faculty and researchers to communicate their findings responsibly to society. Academic freedom is supported in conjunction with adherence to research integrity and ethical standards, ensuring that freedom of expression is exercised responsibly.

5. Responsibilities of Faculty, Researchers, and Students

Members of the university community are expected to exercise academic freedom in a responsible and ethical manner. While they are free to choose research areas and express ideas, this freedom is balanced with respect for the rights of others, including students, colleagues, and community members. All research and teaching must adhere to rigorous academic and ethical standards. University members are encouraged to consider the societal implications of their public statements, ensuring that these are grounded in evidence and scholarly reasoning. Faculty, researchers, and students are further encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary and collaborative work, to disseminate knowledge widely, and to participate in public dialogue on topics related to their scholarly expertise.

6. Mechanisms for Protection and Support

Termez State University provides mechanisms to protect and support academic freedom, including policies and procedures for reporting and addressing alleged infringements,

institutional support for research initiatives through funding and administrative assistance, and mentorship programs to encourage responsible public engagement. Faculty and students are recognized and rewarded for contributions to academic discourse, knowledge dissemination, and public scholarship.

7. Monitoring and Accountability

The Academic Council and relevant governance bodies monitor the effectiveness of this policy. Annual reviews assess the university's support for academic freedom, identify challenges, and recommend improvements. Documentation of cases, resolutions, and support measures is maintained to ensure transparency and accountability.

8. Conclusion

Termez State University reaffirms that academic freedom is essential for the advancement of knowledge, innovation, and social progress. By supporting the right to choose research areas, teach freely, and communicate scholarly findings publicly, the university fosters an environment of intellectual rigor, creativity, and responsibility. Academic freedom is both a right and a professional duty, enabling the university community to contribute meaningfully to society while upholding the highest standards of scholarship.

9. Entry into force and review

The policy is effective from 1 January 2025.

It shall be reviewed every three years, or within six months following any relevant legislative change.

10. Responsible unit and contact

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