

Academic Freedom Policy

Version	Approved by	Approval date	Review date
01	Board of Directors	August 2024	September 2025

Administering Entity	Academic Board
Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry as fundamental values of our academic institution. These principles are essential for the pursuit of knowledge, the advancement of scholarship, and the development of critical thinking skills among our students and faculty.
Scope	This policy applies to all members of the academic community, including faculty, students, staff, and administrators, within the ISGL community. It encompasses all academic activities, including teaching, research, scholarship, and the exchange of ideas, whether they occur on or off-campus, in-person, or online.

DEFINITION AND EXPLANATION

Academic Freedom: Academic freedom is the fundamental principle that grants faculty and students the autonomy and liberty to pursue knowledge, ideas, and intellectual inquiry without undue constraints or interference. It encompasses the right to freely explore and express ideas, opinions, and research findings, uninhibited by censorship, fear of retaliation, or discrimination. Academic freedom is pivotal for the advancement of scholarship, fostering critical thinking, and the development of a robust and diverse academic community.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Academic Freedom:

- ISGL is committed to upholding and protecting academic freedom as a cornerstone of higher education. Academic freedom grants faculty and students the right to explore and express ideas, opinions, and research findings without fear of censorship, retribution, or discrimination.
- Faculty members have the right to select course materials, design curricula, and conduct research in line with their professional judgment and expertise.
- Faculty members also have the right to express their views on institutional policies, academic matters, and broader societal issues, both within and outside the institute, as private citizens.

Free Intellectual Inquiry:

- ISGL recognises that free intellectual inquiry is essential for the development of a vibrant academic environment. Faculty and students have the right to engage in open, critical, and respectful discussions and debates on various topics, even those that may be controversial.
- ISGL will foster an atmosphere of inclusivity and tolerance, promoting a diversity of perspectives and ideas while respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals.

Responsibilities of Administrators:

- Administrators are responsible for supporting and protecting academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry within the institution. They must ensure that policies and practices align with these principles.
- Administrators should promote an environment where faculty and students feel safe expressing their ideas, conducting research, and engaging in discussions without fear of retribution or censorship.
- In cases where conflicts arise that involve academic freedom or free intellectual inquiry, administrators should seek to resolve them through transparent and fair processes.

International and Cultural Considerations:

- a. Recognising our diverse and international community, ISGL acknowledges the cultural and international dimensions of academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry and will respect and uphold these principles in a globally sensitive manner.

Compliance and Reporting:

- a. All members of the academic community are expected to comply with this policy.
- b. Any concerns or violations related to academic freedom or free intellectual inquiry should be reported to the President or the designated authority for appropriate investigation and resolution.

Review and Revision:

- a. This policy will be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in upholding the values of Academic Freedom.

Related Documents

- a. Scholarship of Learning and Teaching Policy
- b. Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- c. Staff Development Policy
- d. Staff Grievance and Complaints Policy and Procedures
- e. Student Code of Conduct Policy
- f. Student Grievance and Mediation Policy and Procedures