



The University of World Economy and Diplomacy

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

Tashkent-2024

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dated December 26, 2024, Protocol No. 4, Annex 4A-5-E*

THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD ECONOMY AND DIPLOMACY

PREAMBLE

This strategy aims to foster and implement research competencies across all departments and cultivate a community of leading researchers at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (hereinafter referred to as the University / UWED). This Strategy, guided by the objective of advancing international law, international relations, political science, and global economics, seeks to fully mobilize scientific and financial resources, establish long-term scientific reform priorities, train highly qualified diplomats, and elevate scientific infrastructure, aligning with the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures for the Systemic Reform of the Activities of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy” No. PQ-330, dated July 23, 2022.

This Strategy guarantees academic freedom and freedom of research for senior researcher fellows, junior researcher fellows, as well as freedom of teaching for senior lecturers and junior lecturers at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in accordance with the action plan of the faculties, departments, the Institute of Advanced International Studies, and the Diplomatic Academy.

This strategy aims to foster academic freedom and refine innovative practices, while deepening research into relevant topics. These endeavors are undertaken to enhance the quality of teaching, conduct research, generate innovations, apply them practically, and disseminate and utilize knowledge in the realm of the country's foreign policy and economic activities. The ultimate goal is to further refine the system of selection, training, retraining, professional development, and the creation of a reserve of diplomatic personnel.

The UWED's academic freedom is protected by international human rights standards and principles of educational activity, as well as by the constitutional and national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education"; the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 8, 2019 "On Approval of the Concept for Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030"; the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

dated December 24, 2021 "On Additional Measures to Ensure Academic and Organizational and Managerial Autonomy of State Higher Education Institutions"; the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 24, 2021 "On Measures to Grant Financial Autonomy to State Higher Education Institutions"; the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 23, 2022 "On Measures for Systemic Reforms of the Activities of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy"; the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 6, 2020 "On Measures to Ensure Transparency and Enhance the Efficiency of the Process of Training Scientific Personnel"; the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 22, 2017 "On Measures to Further Improve the System of Postgraduate Education."

The UWED proclaims academic freedom as a fundamental principle of its activities, creating an environment conducive to intellectual and dynamic development, a pursuit of knowledge and scientific inquiry, within a context of freedom of thought and expression.

I. DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom is the right to acquire knowledge and develop ideas. Academic freedom is protected by international and national human rights law. Academic freedom is an indispensable condition for the educational process at all levels. The UWED's Academic Freedom Strategy reaffirms an unwavering commitment to upholding and safeguarding academic freedom for all members of its academic community. The protection of academic freedom is a shared responsibility.

The UWED's academic freedom is the right of members of the academic community to acquire, expand, transmit, and utilize diverse knowledge and ideas through research, teaching, learning, and the exchange of views.

II. SCOPE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The UWED guarantees inclusivity and encompasses all academic disciplines and fields of study in the areas of foreign policy, foreign economics, and international law, regardless of ideology, methodology, or subject matter.

The UWED adheres to the principle of freedom of research, teaching, and discussion, freedom of thought, publication, and dissemination of research findings, which are integral elements of academic autonomy.

The UWED employs a multi-faceted approach to safeguard academic freedom, ensuring it remains integral to its operations and ethos:

Legislative Safeguards:

- Academic freedom is rooted in and protected by international human rights standards, constitutional provisions, and national laws of Uzbekistan, including the orders of the Rector and the provisions of the UWED.

Institutional Policies and Processes:

- Clear, transparent grievance mechanisms exist to address any potential violations of academic freedom;

- Institutional autonomy ensures that decisions regarding research, teaching, and academic content are free from external pressures;

- An Ethics and Oversight Committee monitors adherence to ethical practices and investigates complaints.

Capacity Building and Awareness:

- Regular workshops, seminars, and training programs are held to raise awareness among faculty, students, and administrative staff about their rights and responsibilities regarding academic freedom;

- Partnerships with international institutions reinforce best practices in maintaining academic integrity, by exposing students and staff to different views and beliefs, enables transparency.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Academic freedom is not only a right but also a responsibility and a commitment to conscientious work. The primary obligation is adherence to the ethics of research practice, compliance with professional standards, and respect for the rights and viewpoints of others.

In the context of academic freedom, social responsibility is the obligation to exercise the right to academic freedom in accordance with the commitment to establish truth and disseminate information in accordance with ethical and professional standards, as well as to respond to the pressing issues and needs of all members of society.

Scientific and pedagogical staff and students have the right and bear the social responsibility to interact with the public, sharing the content of research and educational work or the context of scientific discourse developed in the education sector, including

through academic and non-academic publications, public speeches, print and electronic media, radio, television, exhibitions, presentations, and other events.

University Administration:

- Upholds institutional autonomy and integrates policies that support academic freedom;
- Provides resources and mechanisms to prevent and resolve disputes related to academic freedom.

Faculty and Researchers:

- Maintain high standards of academic ethics and integrity;
- Actively engage in creating a culture that respects diverse perspectives and supports intellectual exploration.

Students:

- Exercise their rights to free inquiry and expression responsibly, adhering to academic codes of conduct;
- Contribute to a collaborative and respectful academic environment.

Government and Regulatory Bodies:

- Enact and enforce laws that protect academic freedom while respecting institutional autonomy;
- Monitor and intervene only when necessary to uphold broader legal and ethical standards.

International Partners:

- Support the UWED in aligning with global best practices through collaborations and exchange programs.

III. PROTECTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The protection of academic freedom also extends to activities related to the conditions, actions, or policies of research and educational institutions, regardless of whether these processes occur within or outside the research and education sector, including in the public sphere.

If academic freedom is compromised – complaints are evaluated by a dedicated An Ethics and Oversight Committee. Resolutions may involve mediation, the reinstatement of violated rights, or appropriate disciplinary actions.

Serious violations may be referred to the appropriate authorities, ensuring accountability under national and international law.

The university has established a clear and transparent mechanism to address complaints related to violations of academic freedom and other related disputes. This mechanism includes:

Submission of Complaints: An Ethics and Oversight Committee is available for submitting complaints, ensuring accessibility and confidentiality for all stakeholders.

Review and Investigation: An Ethics and Oversight Committee reviews complaints promptly and conducts thorough investigations in line with established procedures.

Resolution and Feedback: After investigation, resolutions are communicated transparently to all parties involved, with a clear timeline for implementation.

Appeals Process: Complainants have the right to appeal decisions through an independent process, ensuring fairness and impartiality.

This structured approach ensures that all complaints are addressed in a manner that upholds academic freedom and institutional integrity.

The UWED and its community bear a collective responsibility to promote academic freedom and protect it from undue external pressure or threats.

Affected individuals receive support, including counseling and legal advice, to address any harm resulting from violations.

IV. LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

The UWED upholds and safeguards academic freedom, encompassing the unfettered right to access, disseminate, and generate information. This freedom extends to the unhindered pursuit of intellectual thought, the acquisition and expression of diverse knowledge, and its practical application within or in conjunction with one's specialization or field of study.

Academic freedom is a fundamental principle, but it is not absolute. Rules and procedures for determining the content of scientific research and educational work, curriculum, and materials are not subject to censorship, external interference, or discrimination.

Academic freedom must be exercised in accordance with laws, regulations, and contractual obligations. Any prohibitions or limitations on academic freedom must be consistent with international obligations. Limitations may only be imposed by law of the Republic of Uzbekistan and must be necessary for the respect of the rights and reputation of others, or for the protection of national security, public order, public

morality, and only to the extent that they are conducive to the general welfare in a democratic society.

Academic freedom must not be used to interfere with the operations of the university or to disrupt the learning environment.

V. ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE AND AUTONOMY

The state, officials, state agencies and institutions, including ministries responsible for regulating research, educational activities, and higher education management, as well as the University, shall uphold the rights and freedoms of individuals, including academic freedom, within their respective jurisdictions and powers, including through the adoption of necessary legislative, administrative, and other measures.

The UWED is responsible for fostering respect for and expanding knowledge about human rights and fundamental freedoms, including academic freedom, at the national and international levels.

Department of science and innovation of the UWED is to support and protect academic freedom and freedom of research. Rules are established through a lawful and democratic method, through consultation and dialogue with trade unions of scientific and pedagogical workers and students, as well as other representatives of professional communities.

The UWED guarantees the preservation of institutional autonomy in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is essential for safeguarding academic freedom and resisting external pressure that could undermine our commitment to freedom of research and expression.

VI. CONCLUSION

The University of World Economy and Diplomacy is firmly committed to academic freedom as a fundamental cornerstone of the academic community and directs its efforts toward the development of science and higher education in the context of the modern world. This policy underscores UWED's aspiration to create an environment where diversity of thought, intellectual inquiry, and the pursuit of knowledge are central to our approach. Science, education, and upbringing are the cornerstones of development, a force that multiplies the power of the country and the people.

This Strategy "On the Policy of Academic Freedom at UWED" is intended to serve as a solid foundation for protecting and promoting academic freedom within the university. It guides actions and defines expectations for all members of the academic community, reinforcing the UWED's commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom.

The University of World Economy and Diplomacy is steadfast in its pledge to uphold academic freedom, recognizing its role as the cornerstone of a thriving academic community. By fostering open dialogue, protecting intellectual autonomy, and implementing robust safeguards, the UWED aims to ensure that these principles remain resilient against any threats.

This expanded framework highlights UWED's dedication to transparency, fairness, and continuous improvement, creating confidence in its ability to safeguard academic freedoms now and in the future.