

**THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD ECONOMY AND DIPLOMACY**



**STRATEGY “ON THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD ECONOMY AND DIPLOMACY”**

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# **STRATEGY ON 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. 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.

## **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.

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

### **III. LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

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.

### **IV. PROTECTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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.

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.

The university has established a clear and transparent mechanism for addressing complaints to address violations of academic freedom and related disputes. This mechanism ensures due process and a fair resolution of disputes.

## **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.

Units are established within the UWED 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.