



Stratford College London

Academic Freedom

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Public interest Governance Principles

Academic Freedom

The OFS Guidance provides that, *“academic staff at an English higher education provider have freedom within the law: a) to question and test received wisdom; and b) to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinion without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges they may have at the provider”*.

The College values the freedom of tutors and students as members of its environment; to teach and study and pursue knowledge and carry out research, without being subjected to unreasonable restriction or interference from College regulations. The College will encourage its academic staff in the pursuance of academic inquiry into any areas of study that triggers intellectual concern and to present findings to their students and colleagues; to publish findings and conclusions freely without unreasonable control or censorship; and to support all staff to teach in the manner which they view as professionally appropriate.

The Academic Board shall see to implement the College principles on academic freedom and consider any complaints related to unreasonable interference or restriction of staff academic freedom. Academic Board shall review the College climate on academic freedom and report to the Board of Directors on a term by term basis.

Rights of Academic Staff

- To fulfil their functions without unreasonable interference
- To pursue academic inquiry in a professional manner without discrimination of any kind
- Subject to accepted ethical behaviour and professional principles, shall teach without any unreasonable interference
- To publish and communicate conclusions of research or academic inquiry of which they are authors or co-authors.
- To make recommendations to the Academic Board for the effective, transparent, compliance and the additional value which, can be added to the standards.

Responsibilities

In enjoying the academic freedom associated to their academic work, staff members are reminded that the exercise of such rights comes with responsibilities and that teaching, research and academic inquiry must be carried out in full compliance with ethical and professional standards. The responsibilities which shall be consistent with their terms of employment are:

- To adopt appropriate and effective mechanisms in teaching to enhance student achievement
- To seek to achieve high standards in their academic and professional work
- To encourage interaction and free exchange of ideas between staff and students with developmental guidance to enhance the student academic experience
- To engage with the student on periodical basis with a view to take feedback, better education and facilities and resources.
- To ensure that academic research and scholarship activities are established upon honest search for knowledge, giving due respect for evidence
- Abide by principles of scholarly research by acknowledging the scholarly work of academic colleagues and students and recognise all those who have materially contributed to the contents of publications
- To make recommendations on periodical basis to the BoD for the effective, transparent and adequate provision of training.