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Azerbaijan Technological University

Rector Assoc. Prof. Yashar Omarov



AZERBAIJAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

Academic freedom policy

In the modern higher education system, academic freedom is considered one of the main principles of university activities. Academic freedom is an important value that ensures the free implementation of scientific research, teaching and exchange of ideas in educational institutions. The existence of academic freedom serves the development of creative and critical thinking at the university, the formation of new scientific knowledge and the development of society.

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) considers academic freedom as one of the main values of the university and considers protecting these rights of professors, teachers, researchers and students as one of its priorities. At the same time, the university's academic freedom policy supports the academic staff and students to responsibly approach the conditions of academic freedom of expression, which plays a key role in the proper conduct of teaching, management and research. As with all rights and duties, academic freedom also carries certain responsibilities, expectations and accountability and is implemented within the framework of trust and confidence. This policy document defines the principles of implementing academic freedom at the university, rights and obligations, as well as mechanisms for protecting this freedom and covers all students, academic staff and other administrative staff of the university.

The essence of academic freedom

Academic freedom refers to the right of professors, teaching staff, researchers, and students working at ATU to freely engage in scientific activity, teaching, and expression of ideas. This concept encompasses the following areas:

- the right to conduct scientific research and freely publish its results;
- the freedom to use modern and effective methods in the teaching process;
- to freely participate in academic discussions and scientific debates;
- the free expression of diverse scientific views and opinions.

Academic freedom creates conditions for open scientific discussions and the formation of an intellectual environment at ATU.

Basic principles of academic freedom

The academic freedom policy of Azerbaijan Technological University is based on the following principles:

The principle of scientific independence - professors, teaching staff and researchers have the right to freely conduct scientific research and freely choose the topic and methodology.

The principle of freedom of thought and expression – the free expression and discussion of diverse ideas is encouraged in the academic environment.

The principle of academic integrity - truthfulness, honesty, objectivity, and ethical norms must be observed in scientific activity and the teaching process.

The principle of respect and ethical behavior – academic freedom should be exercised within the framework of mutual respect and ethical behavior.

Scope of the Academic Freedom Policy

This policy applies to all academic staff, students, invited guests, and other scholarly collaborators of Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU). It also defines the rights and responsibilities of individuals engaged in academic activities across all faculties and departments of ATU.

The implementation of the policy ensures the protection of academic freedom within ATU's departments, laboratories, conferences, seminars, scientific publications, as well as in the teaching process and other academic activities.

In addition, the Academic Freedom Policy provides mechanisms for the prompt and objective resolution of issues arising from violations of academic freedom within ATU, which is essential for the university to meet high academic and scientific standards.

Academic freedom rights

Freedom of education

Academic freedom is one of the main components of academic freedom at the Azerbaijan Technological University and ensures the right of the teaching staff to freely carry out their teaching activities based on scientific principles, academic ethical norms, and modern pedagogical approaches.

Educational freedom allows teachers to apply scientifically based interactive methods in the teaching process, to convey modern knowledge and practices to students, and to develop students' critical and analytical thinking skills.

Freedom of education is implemented in accordance with ATU's curriculum, state educational standards, and internal legal and regulatory documents.

The teaching staff has the following rights:

- to formulate the content of the subject taught in accordance with modern scientific knowledge and international academic experience;

- to use lectures, seminars, practical exercises, project work, interactive discussions and other pedagogical methods in the teaching process;
- select and apply teaching materials, textbooks, and additional academic resources;
- to freely express one's scientific position and research results during teaching;

Freedom of education is implemented within the framework of the approved curricula, subject programs and syllabi of ATU. The teaching staff is free to use modern technologies, electronic educational resources and innovative teaching methods in the teaching process. The teaching process is carried out with respect for the rights of students. is carried out in accordance with academic ethical norms.

Freedom of research

Freedom of research, as one of the main components of academic freedom at ATU, ensures the right of the teaching staff, researchers and doctoral students to independently and freely carry out their scientific activities. Freedom of research creates conditions for the development of scientific knowledge, the formation of new ideas and the achievement of innovative results. ATU ensures the creation of the necessary academic environment and organizational conditions for the free implementation of scientific activities.

Professors, teaching staff, researchers and doctoral students have the following rights:

- independently choose a topic for scientific research;
- to determine the methodology and approaches of scientific research;
- present research results at scientific conferences, seminars and other academic platforms;
- publish research results in international scientific databases and local scientific journals, monographs and other academic publications;
- participate in national and international scientific projects;
- To carry out scientific cooperation and academic exchange activities.

Research activities must be carried out in accordance with international scientific standards, principles of academic integrity and ethical rules. ATU creates opportunities for the use of scientific laboratories, libraries, electronic databases and other academic resources for the development of research activities. The dissemination and discussion of research results is ensured on the basis of the principles of academic freedom.

Freedom of expression

At Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU), the principle of freedom of expression guarantees the right of teachers, researchers, and students to express their views openly. This principle is one of the essential conditions for the development of scientific thought, the emergence of new ideas, and the conduct of open discussions within the university environment.

As a core component of academic freedom, freedom of expression ensures that faculty, scholars, and students can articulate their opinions freely during scientific and teaching activities. This right allows them to comment on various issues based on scientific facts, research, and their own academic positions. In the teaching process, instructors may freely select course materials and present diverse theoretical approaches, thereby engaging students in open scientific discussions. The key requirement is that the information presented must be grounded in scientific evidence and serve the quality of education.

Students also have the right to express their opinions freely during classes, participate in academic discussions, and demonstrate independent positions in research and academic writing. Freedom of expression within the Academic Freedom Policy enables members of the university community to carry out their scientific and intellectual activities independently and is regarded as one of ATU's fundamental values.

Academic responsibilities

Within the framework of academic freedom at Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU), academic responsibilities require that teachers, researchers, and students exercise this right in an ethical, professional, and lawful manner. Academic freedom is not only a legal entitlement but also entails certain obligations.

Individuals engaged in academic activities at ATU must adhere to the principles of honesty and objectivity in their research and teaching. They must not distort information and should present scientific facts accurately and correctly. Faculty and researchers are expected to comply with academic ethical standards, avoiding plagiarism, falsification, and other forms of misconduct. Proper respect must be shown to copyright and intellectual property when using scientific sources.

Members of the university community should respect one another's opinions and conduct academic discussions in an ethical and constructive manner. Discrimination, insults, or hate speech are strictly prohibited. Those exercising academic freedom must comply with national legislation and the internal regulations of the higher education institution.

Protection of academic freedom

At Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU), the protection of academic freedom entails the implementation of mechanisms and measures that ensure teachers, researchers, and students can carry out their teaching, research, and expression of ideas freely and independently. Safeguarding academic freedom is considered one of ATU's core principles, serving the advancement of science, education, and innovation.

Members of the university community must be able to express their views openly on scientific and social issues within the academic environment. Encouraging diverse scientific perspectives and discussions is a key element of protecting academic freedom. Safeguarding academic freedom is essential for the development of independent thinking, critical approaches, and scientific innovation at ATU. This principle contributes to strengthening the university's academic reputation and improving the quality of education.

Cases related to violations of academic freedom are investigated by the university's leadership, and appropriate measures are taken.

Final provisions

This policy document serves to ensure academic freedom at the Azerbaijan Technological University and is considered one of the main principles of activity for all structural divisions of the university, professors and teaching staff, researchers and students. It is fully consistent with the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international standards of education and scientific activity. ATU employees and students are obliged to study the provisions of the policy and comply with it. The policy serves to protect the general academic environment at ATU.

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AZERBAIJAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY ACTION PLAN FOR 2025

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No .	Content of the work to be done	Implementation methods	Executive and related structures	Execution time	Expected result	Note
1	Presentati on of the academic freedom policy	Organizing seminars and presentations to introduce and explain the academic freedom policy to university	Department of Organization and Management of Education, Faculties	January, February 2025	Raising awareness about the principles of academic freedom	

		staff and students.				
2	Using modern methods in the teaching process	Organizing trainings and seminars to implement student-centered teaching and ensure the professional development of teachers.	Department of Organization and Management of Education, Faculties Departments	During the year	Improving the quality of teaching, developing teachers' pedagogical skills, increasing student activity	
3	Training on academic ethical behavior	Conducting training on academic integrity, prevention of plagiarism, and scientific ethical rules.	Department of Organization and Management of Scientific Activities, Departments	March, October 2025	Increasing the level of compliance with academic ethical norms	
4	Promotion of research activities	Supporting the participation of teachers and researchers in scientific projects, conferences, and international scientific cooperation programs.	Department of Organization and Management of Scientific Activities, International Cooperation Department	During the year	Increasing scientific activity and the number of publications	
5	Organizing open academic discussions	Organizing scientific seminars, round tables and academic debates in faculties.	Faculties, Departments	During the year	Developing an environment of academic discussion and critical thinking	
6	Raising awareness about students'	Holding meetings and seminars for students on	Faculties	During the year	Raising students' awareness of academic	

	academic rights	academic freedom and academic responsibilities			rights and responsibilities	
7	Academic freedom appeal	Receiving and investigating complaints regarding violations of academic freedom	Relevant structural heads of the University	During the year	Conducting an operational and objective investigation	
8	Expansion of electronic scientific resources	Increasing access to electronic libraries, scientific databases, and other academic resources.	Library, Information Communication Technologies Department	Regular	Expanding research opportunities	
9	Monitoring academic freedom policy	Assessing the status of policy implementation and conducting annual monitoring	Department of Organization and Management of Education, Department of Organization and Management of Scientific Activities	December 2025	Ensuring effective implementation of the policy	