

Academic Freedom and Intellectual Inquiry Policy

SCOPE

This policy applies to all those who are engaged by AFTT to provide academic leadership and/or teach and extends to those who provide, whether on a contractual basis or otherwise, teaching and assessment services at AFTT.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline AFTT's commitment to the exercise of academic freedom, underpinned by the principle of free intellectual inquiry.

This policy provides direction on matters of academic freedom. The AFTT community are expected to adhere to the provisions of relevant legislation, and to the rules, policies, regulations, procedures and guidelines of AFTT, the accepted ethical practices of the higher education community in Australia, and the standards of relevant academic research disciplines and professional practice.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Freedom

AFTT endorses the *Global Colloquium of University Presidents 2005* definition of academic freedom as "the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead."

Free Intellectual Inquiry

Free intellectual inquiry refers to the freedom for students, stakeholders to explore their own ideas and to challenge in a thoughtful manner the assumptions and evidence which underpin the academic content of the programs of study. Free intellectual inquiry also covers the right and responsibility to pursue knowledge and inquiry, whether the pursuit might lead, in accordance with the highest scholarly standards. It includes the responsible transmission and/or communication of the knowledge so gained, openly within AFTT and into the community at large, in conformity with the law and policies and obligations of AFTT.

For definitions not listed here please refer to *AFTT's Glossary*.

POLICY

AFTT's reputation as an educational institution depends upon its ability and determination to challenge, revise and renew accepted ideas, be able to encourage debate, and support the development and testing of theories.

A core value of AFTT is to preserve, defend and promote the traditional principles of academic freedom in the conduct of its affairs. Scholars at AFTT are free to engage in intellectual and critical enquiry, scholarly endeavour and public discourse without fear or favour. In return for that freedom, AFTT expects all its scholars to carry out their academic work with utmost integrity.

AFTT recognises and values the right to academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry as central to its endeavours in scholarship, teaching and research and is committed to its promotion and protection within AFTT. It supports the right of its scholars to engage in critical inquiry and robust and unfettered critical debate. It recognises and promotes a diversity of opinion and the right to express that opinion freely.

Notwithstanding, academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry carries responsibilities to exercise professional care and competence in teaching, learning and research and must not adversely affect the ability of others to engage freely in teaching, learning, research and debate.

Students at AFTT have the right to:

- Have access to information about free intellectual inquiry
- Develop design theories, concepts and products underpinned by the access to information from a broad and diverse scholarly base and be active in exploring ideas, theories and experience
- Freely and generously cooperate with other students to reciprocally exchange
- Information and ideas for significant scholarly advancement
- To explicitly work together with the Academic Team to create classroom cultures that support robust discussions of ideas, theories and experience; and
- To create original and innovative solutions to complex problems with open-minded and professional research approaches, unimpeded by preconceived notions of outcomes by the Academic Team or industry representatives.

1 AFTT: Academic Freedom and Intellectual Inquiry

Updated on 20.8.2020 to reflect JMC Pty Ltd's business name of the Academy of Film, Theatre & Television (AFTT)

Academy of Film, Theatre & Television is the business name of:

International Film School Sydney Pty Ltd (IFSS) ABN 50 108 452 062 | RTO Code: 91143 | CRICOS No: 02660C

JMC Pty Ltd ABN 53 003 572 012 | CRICOS No: 01259J

Academic Team Members at AFTT have the right to:

- Exercise the right of academic freedom without fear of harassment, bullying, intimidation or unfair treatment
- Speak, write and publish, or perform, create and exhibit, without being subject to AFTT sanction, censorship or discipline
- Express unpopular or controversial views, although this does not mean the right to harass, vilify or intimidate other persons or to demean alternate points of view
- Explicitly work together with other academics and students in creating classroom cultures that support robust discussions of ideas, theories and experience
- Be responsible for the transmission and/or communication of the knowledge so gained, openly within the academy and into the community at large, in conformity with the law and policies and obligations of the institute; and
- Work in a safe environment where academic integrity and honesty are key guiding principles and rigorous attention is paid to Intellectual Property.

By recognising, promoting and supporting the right to academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry, AFTT does not imply endorsement of particular views expressed by our academics. The views expressed are the views of the Academic Team even though an affiliation with AFTT is indicated. Views on behalf of AFTT can only be expressed by officials and executives because of the position they hold or by other members of the Academy if specifically authorised to do so.

Academic freedom is not a defence for acting unlawfully or for poor behaviour or disrespectful treatment of others and in their exercise of academic freedom Academic Team will at all times also observe the AFTT's Code of Conduct.

References

Academic Freedom Statement of the First Global Colloquium of University Presidents, Colombia University, January 18-19, 2005. Sourced from <http://www.columbia.edu/~md2221/academicstatement.doc>
 FairWork Commission Decision University of Technology Sydney Academic Staff Agreement 2018, 48 Intellectual Freedom, p 48. Sourced from <https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/2019-01/UTS-Academic-Staff-Agreement-2018-FWC-Approval.pdf>
 French RS (2019) Report of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers. Sourced from <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/52661>
 TEQSA (2018) Guidance Note: Scholarship. Sourced from <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/latestnews/publications/guidance-note-scholarship>
 TEQSA (2018) Guidance Note: Research and Research Training. Sourced from <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/latest-news/publications/guidance-note-research-and-researchtraining>
 TEQSA (2019) Guidance Note: Academic Leadership. Source from <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/forproviders/resources/guidance-note-academic-leadership>.

POSITIONS RESPONSIBLE

- Governing Council
- Academic Board
- Senior Management
- Academic Team Members

RELATED LEGISLATION

This Policy supports AFTT's compliance with the following legislation:

- Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth)
- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015