

Academic Freedom Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

The academic freedom policy aims to uphold and protect the principles of academic freedom within the community of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO). This policy applies to academics affiliated to / volunteering at PUNO.

2. Definition of Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is the freedom within the law of academics at PUNO to question and test received wisdom and to advance new ideas and controversial opinions without putting themselves in jeopardy of losing their (voluntary) position at PUNO. [See Higher Education and Research Act (2017), Section 2 (8)c]

3. Academic Freedom and Intellectual Rigour

Academic freedom does not mean that every claim or viewpoint is equally worthy. Claims and viewpoints should be subject to questioning, challenged by rational argument underpinned by relevant evidence.

5. Academic Freedom and Institutional Policies

- a. Viewpoints and opinions expressed by academics and students that are contrary to PUNO's policies (see, for example, Article 3 of the PUNO Statute affirms PUNO's commitment to non-discrimination and neutrality) must never be presented as if they were endorsed by PUNO.
- b. Academics may propose courses to teach, their content, the manner in which they are taught, supervised and assessed to the authorities of PUNO. The PUNO authorities determine whether a course is offered or not, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, PUNO's mission as an educational charity, the quality of the course, the suitability of those proposed to teach the course, the potential costs/benefits of the course. See PUNO's Guidelines for Academic Course Proposals.

6. Institutional Neutrality

While academics at PUNO have the right to express their scholarly views and arguments, the institution remains neutral in its outlook, and adheres to relevant legislation including, *inter alia*, Charity Act (2011), Equality Act (2010).

8. Responsibilities of the University Community

- a. The authorities of PUNO are responsible for ensuring the protection and promotion of academic freedom
- b. Academics: Academics exercise academic freedom while adhering to the highest standards of academic integrity, promote the free exchange of ideas, and encourage a welcoming learning environment.
- c. Students: Students engage in critical thinking, and uphold the principles of academic integrity in their studies and intellectual interactions with academics.
- d. Staff: Non-academic staff / volunteers support the university's commitment to academic freedom by fostering an inclusive environment that promotes intellectual discourse.

9. Resolving Disputes

The PUNO Senate is empowered to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in regards to disputes relating to academic freedom. The final decision relating to such disputes is made by the Board of Trustees.

10. Policy Review

This academic freedom policy will be periodically reviewed and updated, taking into account changes in legislation, best practice, and feedback from the PUNO community. PUNO will review the policy every 2 years.

Recommended by: PUNO Safeguard Lead Katarzyna Karita

Endorsed by: PUNO Senate

Approved and Authorised by: PUNO's Trustees