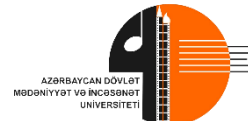




MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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## Ministry of Science and Education Republic of Azerbaijan

### Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

#### Academic Freedom Policy of the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (ASUCA)

##### Introduction

Academic freedom is the basis for achieving the mission of ASUCA dedicated to the development of culture, art and social sciences, and serves as the most important condition for ensuring the creative, research and educational process. Recognition and protection of academic freedom, especially in the context of art and culture, are of paramount importance for the sustainable development of the educational space and maintaining the principles of freedom of expression and research. This policy, based on the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and international legal acts, defines and regulates the rights and responsibilities of the university community in matters of academic freedom.

##### Definition of Academic Freedom

Academic freedom at ASUCA is the right of students, teachers, researchers and staff to express, research and teach freely, and to participate in educational and creative processes without fear of persecution, reprisals or other restrictions. In the context of our faculties of arts, culture and social sciences, academic freedom includes the opportunity to express creative ideas, explore cultural and social themes and propose new artistic and scientific approaches.

## **Scope**

The policy of academic freedom applies to all students, teachers, researchers and staff of ASUCA. It also concerns all educational and research processes related to the university's activities in the field of art, culture and social sciences, including lectures, seminars, master classes, research projects, exhibitions, performances and other cultural events.

## **Basic principles of academic freedom**

### **1. Freedom of research and creativity**

ASUCA faculty, students, and academics have the right to choose research topics, develop unique thoughts, and express their innovative thoughts without interference, restrictions, or censorship, provided they adhere to the university's professional standards and ethical guidelines. In the faculties of subculture and humanities, this right consists of the freedom to experiment with different forms and styles of art, to discover cultural traditions and cutting-edge trends, and to initiate cultural projects and events.

### **2. Freedom of Teaching**

University faculty have the right to design courses, choose teaching techniques, and express different views in their discipline, stimulating critical thinking and intellectual debate among learners. In the context of social sciences, humanities, and arts, freedom of teaching is particularly vital, as it promotes a range of perspectives, the development of students' creative capacity, and the analysis of social and cultural issues.

### **3. Freedom of speech and discussion**

Students, teachers and staff of ASUCA have the right to openly discuss academic, cultural and social problems, both within and outside the educational process. This consists of the opportunity to express and defend their opinions, participate in discussions, and challenge accepted theories and interpretations, if this is done in the spirit of respect and tolerance.

#### **4. Institutional Autonomy**

As an educational and research institution, ASUCA has the right to determine its academic standards, development strategy and curricula aimed at ensuring high quality of education, enhancing creativity and strengthening cultural and social diversity.

#### **Responsibilities within the Framework of Academic Freedom**

Academic freedom at ASUCA is associated with responsibility. All academic and administrative staff of the university community should respect each other's academic freedom, avoid actions that violate the rights of others, and adhere to professional and ethical standards.

Faculty members are required to provide an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages learners to think independently and significantly. They are also required to uphold high standards of academic integrity and appreciate diverse perspectives and opinions.

- Students are responsible for respecting the academic freedom of faculty and fellow students, actively taking part in the learning process, and upholding academic ethics.
- Administrators are required to support academic freedom, expand and put in force policies that protect academic freedom, and provide access to resources necessary for the creative and research process.

#### **Procedures for the protection of academic freedom**

ASUCA is committed to protecting academic freedom and addressing all cases where this right may be violated:

##### **1. Filing a complaint**

Members of the University who believe that their academic freedom has been infringed may file a complaint with the relevant administrative body of the University, stating all the circumstances and providing evidence of the violation of their rights.

##### **2. Investigation and resolution of the conflict**

Complaints are considered in compliance with confidentiality, taking into account the principles of objectivity and impartiality. Qualified specialists are involved in the investigation, and a decision is made within 10 calendar days.

### **Taking action**

If violations are detected, measures are taken to restore academic freedom and prevent similar cases in the future. The decision on each case is communicated to the parties concerned and recorded in administrative documents.

### **Development and support of academic freedom**

**ASUCA strives to create conditions for the development of academic freedom through:**

- **Regular training:** Conducting seminars and training for students and teachers on the meaning of academic freedom, rights, and responsibilities associated with it.
- **Exchange of international experience:** Participation in international educational and research projects, which contributes to strengthening academic freedom at the university and the development of best practices in the field of culture and art.
- **Support for research and creative projects:** Providing grants and resources for the implementation of scientific research, cultural projects and initiatives aimed at developing cultural diversity and social analysis.

### **Review and update of the policy**

This policy is periodically reviewed taking into account changes in legislation and international standards in order to ensure the best conditions for creative and academic expression at ASUCA. The policy is supported by all faculties and departments of the university, which contribute to its implementation and compliance at the level of each educational and cultural process.