



SUMGAYIT STATE
UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

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Section 1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

Academic freedom refers to the set of principles that grant teaching and research staff members of higher education institutions and research organizations the autonomy to present academic subjects at their own discretion, select topics and methodologies for scientific research, and for students to acquire knowledge based on their interests and requirements.

Faculty members and researchers can conduct research (single disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary) without encountering any obstacles at Sumgayit State University. Academic freedom is a different and broader understanding of the civil and political rights of democratic citizens. The most important part of the legal status of faculty staff and researchers is their academic rights and freedoms. Here, the academic staff and students play a key role in the proper conduct of teaching, management, and research tasks, and a responsible approach to the conditions of academic freedom of expression is emphasized.

1.2. Current situation

Sumgayit State University acknowledges the value of research in expanding knowledge and tackling difficult societal issues and tries to encourage single disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research that includes promotion system.

Researchers have the academic freedom to collaborate on research projects with peers in other departments, schools, or institutions, as well as with organizations from industry; publish their research results without interference or censorship.

Sumgayit State University does not restrict certain ideas, debates and discussions obtained during research, and it is based on the principle of not hindering and not interfering with the rights of the entire university community.

In order to facilitate single, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, Sumgayit State University is dedicated to creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that honors intellectual curiosity, teamwork, and innovation. In order to further their research agendas, faculty members are urged to look for interdisciplinary research opportunities and to make use of the university's resources and skills.

This policy aims to encourage faculty members in their quest for knowledge and understanding while also encouraging academic independence and innovation in single and multidisciplinary research.

Section 2. Mission and Scope

2.1. Mission

SSU has the responsibility to:

- promote and protect the staff and student freedom to pursue their research interests without hindrance or restriction. This includes the freedom to choose research topics, methodologies, and publications in addition to express controversial or unpopular views without worrying about negative consequences.
- increase participation in local and international research support funds (programs);
- promote systematic research through support for scientific research projects;
- improve the quality of scientific research works;
- increase national and international collaboration in research and innovation;
- develop the programs for more efficient use of university resources and infrastructure for research purposes.

2. 2. Scope of the policy

Academic freedom policy covers the university's professor-teaching staff, students, academic staff, administrative structure.

The professor-teaching staff at the university have the right to freedom based on existing legislation:

- The right of researchers and students working at the university to conduct independent research
- The right of university staff to express new innovative ideas and propose new ideas related to research
- The right to freely use information obtained in the research process.

Section 3. Monitoring and reporting

Continuous monitoring as part of the internal management process operates in a practical form to achieve expected results by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of research activities.

The Scientific Articles Awarding Committee, organized for the purpose of stimulating scientific research activity at SSU, will supervise the activities of the

faculty, department and other relevant scientific staff, and will organize meetings for awarding and promotion.

Reputable journal metrics will be used to evaluate the quality of individual articles, specific researcher awards, promotions, career advancement, or research funding decisions.