

# AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

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Does your university as a body have a policy on supporting academic freedom (freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research)?

## UNIVERSITY :

Al-Mustaqbal University College

## COUNTRY :

Iraq

## WEB ADDRESS :

<https://uomus.edu.iq/en/>

## SDG 16.2.6 :

Academic freedom policy



Yes, Al-Mustaqbal University College has a policy on supporting academic freedom. We believe universities and college scholars play a special social role in the search for truth and the advancement of knowledge. In order to fulfill this role, they require academic freedom.

Academic freedom is the established and firm policy of Al-Mustaqbal University College to provide, protect, and promote an environment of academic and intellectual freedom of scientific inquiry and publication and the freedom and responsibility of academic instructors to acquaint their students with the various sides of controversial subjects within their fields of subject-matter competency. In formally organized classes, lectures, seminars, etc., dealing with specific phases of academic instruction, members of the teaching staff may not subject students to their particular views and opinions concerning matters not related to the course of instruction itself.

# AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY



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Faculty members are presumed to be competent authorities in the subject matter of their formally organized courses of instruction; in other matters, they are merely citizens and, within the organized classrooms of the college, have no right to inflict their views and opinions on issues extraneous to the course of instruction. We believe that academic freedom is only one of a number of core values that universities have to balance.



Al-Mustaqbal University College is committed to the pursuit of truth and its communication with others, including students and the broader community. To do so, faculty must be free to take intellectual risks and tackle controversial subjects in their teaching, research, and scholarship.



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# ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

AL - MUSTAQBAL  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE





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## **Academic freedom Policy 1st Amendment**

### **Section (1) Policy Statement**

The President of the College Council, Prof. Dr. Hassan Shaker Majdi, affirms that institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interests of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth.

Academic freedom is essential for these purposes and applies to all disciplines. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in all disciplines is fundamental for the protection of the rights of faculty and students. It carries with it duties correlating with rights, regardless of employment status.

Academic freedom is essential for the maintenance of excellence in education and exists so that society may have the benefits of objective and independent criticism and honest answers to scientific, social, and artistic questions of any influential social group or transient social attitude. Accordingly, there shall be no adverse consequences to employment status (hiring, promotion, and retention) as a result of expressions protected by academic freedom.

### **Section (2) Definitions**

1. Academic freedom is the principle of freedom of expression for scholars engaged in discipline-related teaching, learning, research, publication, and service. Academic freedom is the foundation of intellectual discovery; It ensures an open search for knowledge and "nourishes the environment within which students develop critical habits of mind," essential to the citizenry of a democratic society. Academic freedom entails both rights and responsibilities.
2. Academic responsibility implies the faithful performance of professional duties and obligations, the recognition of the demands of the scholarly enterprise, and the candor to make it clear that when one is speaking on matters of public interest, one is not speaking for the institution.
3. Speech includes all forms of expressive conduct, including oral speech and written, artistic, musical, and performing works; peaceful protest and activity; and communication using social media. The word "speak" has a corresponding meaning.

### **Section (3) To Whom It Applies**

All faculty members, staff, and associates of the College engage in academic activities within their area of expertise.

### **Section (4) Reason for Policy**

Academic freedom is central to the mission of the college. Knowledge cannot be advanced unless faculty and librarians have the freedom to study and communicate ideas and facts, including those that are inconvenient to political groups or authorities, without fear of reprimand.

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Al-Mustaqbal University College (MUC) is conducted for the common good and not for the interests of the individual faculty members or the college as a whole. The common good depends on the free search for truth and its exposition.

### **Section (5) Scope**

Professional autonomy and academic freedom in teaching and research are adopted at Al-Mustaqbal University College (MUC) in all disciplines.

### **Section (6) Policy**

1. MUC faculty members are entitled to full freedom of research and the publication of the results.
2. MUC faculty members have freedom in research topics to have a role in the advancement of truth.
3. MUC faculty members have the freedom to select the approach of their research that is appropriate to the topic under investigation.
4. MUC faculty members have the freedom to select the teaching styles and methods to achieve the learning objectives of the courses.
5. Academic freedom is in all disciplines and is fundamental to the protection of the rights of faculty and students.
6. There shall be no adverse consequences to employment status (hiring, promotion, and retention) as a result of academic freedom expressions.
7. Freedom of participation in public debate Both within and beyond their areas of expertise, faculty members are generally entitled to participate as citizens in public forums and debates without fear of institutional discipline or restraint, so long as it is clear that they are not acting or speaking for the college.
8. Freedom from internal criticism Al-Mustaqbal University College promotes the common good, not through an individual decision or bureaucratic calculation, but through broad-based engagement in scholarly endeavors. Because of their education and their institutional knowledge, faculty members play an indispensable role as independent participants in college decision-making. In this role, they are entitled to comment on or criticize college policies or decisions, individually or through institutions of faculty governance.

### **Section (7) As a Citizen**

Faculty members are citizens, members of learned professions, and representatives of the college. When the faculty member speaks or writes as a citizen, the faculty member shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, the special position in the community held by the faculty member imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educator, the faculty member is expected to remember that the public may judge the profession and institution by his/her utterances. Hence, the faculty member agrees at all times to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesperson.



## **Section (8) In Instructional Roles**

Academic freedom is also inherent in faculty members' roles in the classroom and related instructional activities. Faculty members are, however, responsible for the maintenance of appropriate standards of scholarship and teaching ability and for ensuring that there is no insertion or intrusion of material that has no relation to the subject matter of instruction. Faculty members are expected to educate students to think for themselves and to facilitate access to relevant materials that they need to form their own opinions. Faculty members are expected to present information fairly and to set forth justly divergent opinions that arise out of scholarly methods and professionalism.

No faculty member may claim as a right the privilege of discussing in the classroom controversial topics outside or unrelated to his/her own field of study. The faculty member is normally bound not to take advantage of his or her position by introducing into the classroom provocative discussions of irrelevant subjects, not within the field of his/her study.

## **Section (9) In Research and Publication**

Faculty members are free to engage in research or scholarship of their own undertaking and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties. Research conducted for this college shall be in harmony with the provisions set forth in the official research policies of the institution or in memoranda of agreement entered into between the college and industries or other agencies. Librarians are free to select and make available any materials supporting the teaching, research, and general learning functions of the academic community.

## **Section (10) Responsibility**

Like all rights, a faculty member's right to academic freedom carries with it responsibilities. There is a duty, responsibility, and obligation on scholars to exercise their right to academic freedom subject to the following principles:

1. Faculty members are responsible for the content of their scholarly works.
2. Faculty members act reasonably, professionally, and in good faith.
3. Faculty members act lawfully, including in accordance with laws regulating defamation, harassment, vilification, and obscene speech and other applicable legislation.
4. Faculty members act in accordance with principles of academic and research ethics.
5. Faculty members may exercise freedom of lawful speech on matters not protected by this policy, provided it is taken solely in their private capacity.
6. By recognizing, promoting, and supporting the right to academic freedom, the College does not imply endorsement of particular views expressed by faculty members. The views expressed are the views of the scholar, even though affiliation with the college is indicated. Views on behalf of the college can only be expressed by officials and executives because of the position they hold or by other college staff if specifically authorized to do so.
7. In their exercise of academic freedom, faculty members will at all times also observe the College's Code of Conduct and Student Code of Conduct, respectively, and the regulations of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.



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**Section (10) Review**

Every two (2) years, this policy will be reviewed or earlier as the need arises.

**Approval**

Type of document: Policy

Title: Academic freedom Policy

Approval Authority: President of Al-Mustaqbal University College Board

Commencement Date: April 2022

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ :

Date \_\_\_\_\_ :

Approved By:

Prof. Dr. Hassan Shaker Majdi

President of Al-Mustaqbal University College Board

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