



Academic Freedom Policy

Table of Contents

A. Overview.....	3
B. Scope.....	3
C. Policy Principles	3
D. Operation.....	3
E. Rights and Responsibilities.....	3

A. Overview

- i. The Lead Institute of Higher Education ('the Institute' or 'LIHE') is committed to creating and maintaining an academic environment where intellectual inquiry and freedom of expression are appreciated, and ideas are subject to critical scrutiny. In keeping with the principles of academic freedom, LIHE undertakes to encourage its staff and students to engage in academic activities with openness, candidness, fearlessness, respect, kindness, and thoughtfulness. The Institute strives to provide, promote and maintain a comprehensive academic environment where ideas can be debated and explored within the boundaries of the law.

- ii. Definitions

For definitions, please refer to the 'Dictionary of Terms'.

B. Scope

This Policy applies to all staff and students at LIHE.

C. Policy Principles

- i. Academic freedom is not only a right, but also a responsibility that must balance individual needs with service to others and the common good.
- ii. LIHE is committed to ensuring freedom of speech of all members of the Institute community, subject only to limitations of law, policies and procedures, code of conduct, ethics and values of the Institute.
- iii. Academic freedom relates to the right of the staff and students to pursue critical, accountable, and open inquiry necessary to inform teaching, assessment, curriculum development, research and the publication of such in accordance with the best ethical, professional and legitimate standards.
- iv. All staff and/or students studying, teaching, or researching at the Institute are free to pursue questions and engage in scholarship and honest research and evaluation against appropriate standards.
- v. LIHE staff and students are expected to demonstrate mutual respect, collegiality, and tolerance, and encourage inclusive and open discussion to create a positive environment for the exchange and discussion of ideas by all members of the community.
- vi. The Academic Board supports an open decision-making process within the Institute with appropriate and controversial opinions informed by evidence and scholarship are debated.

D. Operation

- i. The Institute exercises the freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression that is subject to law, research ethics and the values, policies and codes of conduct of the Institute.
- ii. While ensuring academic freedom, the Institute policies are to be interpreted and applied, so far as is fairly practicable, according with this Policy. Any powers or discretion will be exercised within the bounds of this Policy.
- iii. LIHE will consider the principles of this Policy when formulating, reviewing, or amending its other policies and procedures.

E. Rights and Responsibilities

- i. The Institute
 - a. The Institute endeavours to protect and promote academic freedom in the conduct of all affairs, so that academic staff and students may engage in inquiry, research,

scholarship, teaching or public comment without fear of retribution.

- b. Will investigate any accusation or concern regarding misconduct or unjustifiable restrictions on academic freedom in accordance with this Policy.

ii. Staff

All LIHE staff are entitled to:

- a. Express their opinions without fear of being harassed, intimidated or unfair treatment.
- b. Engage in speaking, writing, exhibiting, and performing within their area of expertise without being subject to unjustifiable restriction or sanction by the institute.
- c. Ensure that no staff members and students are victim of threatening or discouraging behaviour by another individual for exercising their freedom of expression.
- d. Ensure that the Institute meets its other legal obligations for the protection of staff and students.

iii. Students

All LIHE students are entitled to:

- a. Ask questions, share ideas, critique, present and discuss controversial materials related to the class.
- b. Make reasonable exceptions to the conclusions or views offered in each subject, and reserve judgement on matters of opinion, but should be able to study the content of each subject in which they are enrolled.
- c. Have access to information on freedom of speech and expression.
- d. Collaborate freely and generously with other students in institution to exchange knowledge, views and applications.
- e. Use an open-minded and professional research approach to create original and innovative solutions to complex issues, unhindered by any prejudiced notions of results from staff of the Institute and/or industry representatives.

Version	Approved by	Approval Date
I	Academic Board	9 January 2023
Next Review	Custodian	Effective Date
Refer to the <i>Policy Documents Review Schedule</i>	Dean	9 January 2023
Related Documents	Ethics Clearance Policy Human Resource Management Policy Intellectual Property Policy Staff Code of Conduct Teaching and Learning Plan	
References and Legislations	Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 (Cth); Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011	