

1. Purpose

This Policy supports the Australian School of Accounting’s (ASA’s) commitment to promoting, preserving and defending an environment that values and supports academic freedom and free intellectual enquiry.

2. Principles

The key principles informing this Policy are:

- that ASA encourages debate and the expression of diverse scholarly opinion;
- that staff and students are able to exercise their right to academic freedom in teaching, learning and research, and free from fear of discrimination or harassment; and
- that academic freedom must be approached responsibly and ethically.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to all students and all academic staff of ASA.

4. Definition

Term	Definition
Academic Freedom	The right to express or otherwise communicate ideas or facts, free from religious, political, or institutional restrictions.

5. Policy

5.1 Academic Freedom

Academic staff and students are entitled to full freedom in any scholarly activity they pursue within their academic discipline. Academic staff are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject they are delivering, provided that such discussion is within the context of their professional responsibilities and does not breach academic integrity. Students and staff must have a reasonable expectation that their right to hold values of their own choosing will be respected, even when those values are being challenged.

ASA recognises the right of academic staff and students to:

- access information about free intellectual enquiry;
- hold opinions and express ideas without censure or fear of recrimination; and

- engage in the exchange of information, providing that any outcome of that information is properly acknowledged.

5.2 Responsibilities

Staff and students have a responsibility to approach all academic matters with integrity, in a fair, balanced, and open manner.

Specific responsibilities of academic staff include, but are not limited to:

- exercising professional care and competence when conducting teaching or research;
- ensuring that the work of others is not adversely impacted;
- ensuring that the ability of others to engage freely in teaching, learning, research, and academic debate is not compromised;
- not introducing controversial or offensive matter into their teaching which is not directly relevant to the subject; and
- avoiding expressing views on any topic other than those within their sphere of expertise when identifying themselves as a staff member of ASA.

When speaking or writing as private citizens, academic staff should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, academic staff should keep in mind that any public communication may by implication extend to a judgement of ASA. Staff speaking or writing publicly should therefore demonstrate academic, professional and scholarly rigor to ensure accuracy, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and clearly indicate they are not speaking for or on behalf of ASA.

5.3 Abuse of Academic Freedom

If a staff member or student is found to have breached the principles outlined in this Policy and the Code of Conduct, he or she may face disciplinary action.

6. Specific Related Documents

In carrying out this policy further information and procedures can be found in the procedure register under the name "*Student Academic Conduct Procedure*".

7. Related Documents

Staff Code of Conduct
Student Code of Conduct
Student Academic Conduct Policy
Staff Handbook
Student Handbook

8. Relevant Legislation

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021

9. Version Control

Document		Academic Freedom Policy			
Approved by		Board of Directors		Date: 04 November 2020	
				Next Review	2023
Version #	2.1	Replaces Version #	2.0	TEQSA Standards update	
	2.0		1.3	Board of Directors approval	
	1.3		1.2	Governance restructure	
	1.2		1.1	Style review Council approval	
	1.1		1.0	Academic Board review Styling Next review	2021
	1.0		0.3	Academic Board review	
	0.3		0.2	Academic Board review	
	0.2		0.1	Academic Board review	
	0.1		Generic	Academic Board review	