

«META University»  
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Limited Liability Partnership  
«META University»

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**APPROVED** by the  
**President's Decree**  
«META University»  
No 3 from December 8, 2025

## **Research Independence and Academic Freedom Policy**

**Almaty, 2025**



## **1. Purpose**

META University recognizes academic freedom and research independence as fundamental principles that underpin excellence in higher education, scientific advancement, innovation, and societal development.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the institutional framework that safeguards the freedom of teaching, learning, scholarly inquiry, and dissemination of knowledge while ensuring compliance with ethical standards, professional responsibility, and applicable legislation.

## **2. Scope**

This Policy applies to all members of the University community, including:

- Academic staff;
- Researchers and research fellows;
- Visiting scholars;
- Doctoral, master's and undergraduate students engaged in research activities;
- Administrative personnel supporting academic and research functions;
- External collaborators participating in University research projects.
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## **3. Guiding Principles**

META University is committed to the following principles:

### **3.1 Academic Freedom**

The University supports the freedom of academic staff and students to explore, discuss, teach, publish, and communicate ideas and research findings without undue interference or censorship.

### **3.2 Research Independence**

Researchers have the right to determine research questions, methodologies, analytical approaches, and interpretations of findings based on scientific merit and professional judgment.

### **3.3 Integrity and Responsibility**

Academic freedom is accompanied by responsibility for maintaining high standards of research quality, accuracy, transparency, and ethical conduct.

### **3.4 Diversity of Thought**

The University values intellectual diversity and encourages constructive debate, critical inquiry, and the expression of different scholarly perspectives.

### **3.5 Equality and Non-Discrimination**

No member of the University community shall be disadvantaged, restricted, or discriminated against based on their academic views, research interests, nationality, gender, religion, political beliefs, or other protected characteristics.

## **4. Academic Freedom Rights**

META University guarantees the right of academic staff and researchers to:



- Select teaching methods and pedagogical approaches consistent with learning outcomes;
- Conduct independent scholarly and scientific research;
- Publish and disseminate research results through appropriate academic channels;
- Participate in professional associations, conferences, academic networks, and collaborative projects;
- Express evidence-based academic opinions and professional judgments;
- Engage in public discourse within their area of expertise.

Students are encouraged to participate in academic discussions, research activities, and intellectual inquiry in an environment of mutual respect and academic integrity.

### **5. Research Independence**

META University protects research activities from inappropriate external or internal influence.

Research shall not be subject to political, ideological, religious, commercial, or personal interference that may compromise scientific objectivity or research outcomes.

Researchers retain the right to:

- Define research objectives;
- Choose research methodologies and analytical tools;
- Interpret findings independently;
- Publish results, including findings that may be unexpected, controversial, or inconsistent with external stakeholders' interests.

Research sponsors, partners, and funding organizations shall not influence the scientific conclusions of research conducted under the University's auspices.

### **6. Ethical Research Conduct**

All research activities conducted at META University shall comply with:

- Principles of academic integrity;
- Research ethics standards;
- National legislation;
- International standards for responsible research conduct.

The University prohibits:

- Plagiarism;
- Fabrication or falsification of data;
- Misrepresentation of research findings;
- Improper authorship practices;
- Suppression or manipulation of research results;
- Retaliation against individuals reporting ethical concerns.
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### **7. Institutional Support and Protection**

META University commits to:



- Providing access to research infrastructure and information resources;
- Supporting participation in national and international research programs;
- Facilitating interdisciplinary and international collaboration;
- Protecting researchers and academic staff from undue pressure, intimidation, or retaliation related to legitimate academic activities;
- Promoting open dialogue and scholarly exchange.

The University shall establish transparent procedures for addressing concerns related to violations of academic freedom or research independence.

### **8. Responsibilities of the University Community**

Members of the University community are expected to:

- Respect the academic freedom of others;
- Maintain professional and ethical standards;
- Ensure accuracy and reliability of scholarly work;
- Use academic freedom responsibly and constructively;
- Comply with applicable institutional policies and regulations.
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### **9. Policy Governance**

Oversight of this Policy shall be carried out by the University Administration in cooperation with the Research Office, Academic Council, and Ethics Committee.

Reported violations shall be reviewed through established institutional procedures ensuring fairness, confidentiality, and due process.

### **10. Review and Continuous Improvement**

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with international best practices, national legislation, institutional strategy, and developments in higher education and research governance.

### **11. Final Provisions**

This Policy enters into force upon approval by the Academic Council of META University and shall be made publicly available through the University's official website.

META University reaffirms its commitment to fostering an environment where academic freedom, independent research, intellectual diversity, and responsible scholarship contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the sustainable development of society.