

Free Intellectual Inquiry Principles and Guidelines

1. Purpose

As Australian Higher Education provider the purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the principles and a commitment to support free intellectual inquiry by staff and students in their academic endeavours.

This policy complies with the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) HES 2015 in the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 by the Commonwealth of Australia, specifically to Standard 6.1 and B.1

2. Definition

Free intellectual inquiry is defined as having the right and opportunity to undertake certain academic, intellectual and expressive activity without apprehension of hindrance or reprisal.

3. Scope

This applies to all EIA staff and enrolled students.

4. Principles

- 4.1 Academic staff are expected to conduct scholarship, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of free scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead.
- 4.2 As an institution of higher learning, EIA recognises the importance of challenging accepted ideas, supporting the testing of theories and encouraging vigorous debate. Staff and students are expected to practice critical thinking, academic debate and innovative reasoning in their academic work.
- 4.3 Academic staff at EIA are responsible for the promotion of free intellectual inquiry, critical thinking and innovative reasoning in the student body.
- 4.4 Academic staff at EIA are responsible for encouraging and supporting positive, analytical disclosure and attentiveness in the student body.
- 4.5 While EIA supports and is committed to academic freedom and free intellectual enquiry must, this is also founded on the principle that the rights of other parties are respected and that there is no breach of any relevant legislation.

5. Guidelines

5.1 Academic staff

5.1.1 Academic staff have the right to:

- undertake scholarship that informs their teaching, scholarship and the conduct of research that promotes intellectual inquiry and expression, critical thinking and innovative reasoning;
- contribute to the treatment of intellectual and practical issues in their teaching, ensuring they provide a balanced presentation that enhances student learning; and
- Where applicable, conduct, examine and publish scholarly materials in the course of their academic work.

5.1.2 Academic staff must not use the principles of free intellectual inquiry to disrespect the rights of other parties or breach any relevant legislation.

5.2 Students

5.2.1 Students are to be encouraged to develop a capacity for critical thinking, intellectual inquiry, academic debate and an independent search for truth. Students have the right to:

- A learning environment that inspires inquiry and learning about society, culture, international environment, science, technology and industry;
- freedom of speech;
- examine and discuss all questions of interest to them; and
- express opinions publicly as well as privately.

5.2.2 Students must not use the principles of free intellectual inquiry to disrespect the rights of other parties or breach any relevant legislation.

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