SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY®

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Academic Freedom Policy

Registrar

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S. No.	Particulars	Description
1	Policy Number	Ref-U-07/SUSU/2025/1973(ii) Date-17.02.2025
2	Policy Statement	This policy outlines the framework and opportunities provided by Swami Vivekanand Subharti University to promote academic freedom, enabling faculty members to independently choose their research areas and freely express, teach, and share their research findings in public, in accordance with applicable laws and University regulations. It applies to both senior and junior academicians and supports freedom in research, teaching, and academic expression.
3	Scope of the Policy	This policy shall apply to all senior and junior faculty members, including visiting and guest faculty, senior and junior research personnel, and all other individuals engaged in academic research at the University.
4	Policy Status	Original
5	Originated By	IQAC
6	Reviewed By	Registrar
7	Effective Date of Policy	17.02.2025
8	Approving Authority	Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
9	Policy Review Date	

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Registrar

1. Preamble

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University recognizes academic freedom as a fundamental principle of higher education that promotes intellectual independence, critical thinking, innovation, knowledge creation, and the pursuit of truth. The University is committed to providing an academic environment in which faculty members and research personnel can pursue research, teach, discuss ideas, express academic opinions, and disseminate research findings without undue interference.

The University believes that academic freedom is essential for academic excellence, quality research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the advancement of knowledge. This policy establishes a framework to safeguard academic freedom while ensuring academic integrity, professional responsibility, ethical conduct, and compliance with applicable laws and University regulations.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

2.1. Promote freedom in teaching, learning, research, and academic expression.

2.2. Enable faculty members and research personnel to select research topics, develop research questions, and adopt appropriate research methodologies within applicable academic and ethical frameworks.

2.3. Encourage the free exchange of ideas, critical inquiry, constructive debate, and diverse academic perspectives.

2.4. Provide opportunities for faculty members and researchers to publish, present, and disseminate their research findings through appropriate academic and professional platforms.

2.5. Foster innovation, interdisciplinary research, collaboration, and the development of new knowledge.

2.6. Protect academic independence against undue interference, discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation in the legitimate exercise of academic responsibilities.

3. Guiding Principles

The University shall promote academic freedom based on the following principles:

3.1. Intellectual Independence: Academic personnel shall be encouraged to explore ideas, formulate research questions, and develop scholarly perspectives independently.

SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY * MEERUT * Registrar 17.02.2026

3.2. Freedom of Research: Researchers shall have the freedom to identify research areas, select suitable methodologies, and pursue scholarly investigations, subject to approved research protocols, ethical requirements, safety standards, and applicable regulations.

3.3. Freedom of Teaching: Faculty members shall have reasonable academic autonomy in designing and delivering courses, selecting teaching methods, and facilitating discussions in accordance with the approved curriculum and learning outcomes.

3.4. Freedom of Expression: Academic personnel may express scholarly opinions, participate in academic discussions, and communicate research findings through appropriate academic and professional forums.

3.5. Non-Discrimination: Academic freedom shall be supported without discrimination based on personal characteristics or academic viewpoints expressed in good faith.

3.6. Academic Integrity: Freedom shall be exercised with honesty, fairness, respect for evidence, proper attribution, and adherence to accepted standards of scholarship.

3.7. Accountability: Academic freedom shall be accompanied by responsibility for the accuracy, ethical conduct, and professional integrity of academic work.

4. Policy Provisions

4.1. Freedom in Research

The University shall encourage faculty members and research personnel to:

- Choose research topics and areas of scholarly investigation based on their expertise, interests, and emerging academic needs.
- Formulate research questions and select appropriate research methods.
- Pursue basic, applied, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research.
- Seek research grants, fellowships, and academic collaborations in accordance with university procedures.
- Publish and present research findings, including findings that may challenge established assumptions or prevailing academic opinions.

Research involving human participants, animals, sensitive information, hazardous materials, or other regulated activities shall comply with applicable ethical approvals, safety requirements, and statutory provisions.

Registrar

4.2. Freedom in Teaching and Learning

The University shall encourage faculty members to employ appropriate teaching methods, introduce relevant scholarly perspectives, facilitate constructive debate, and promote critical thinking.

Faculty members shall have reasonable flexibility in selecting teaching resources, examples, and supplementary materials, provided that teaching remains consistent with the approved curriculum, course objectives, academic standards, and applicable University regulations.

4.3. Freedom of Academic Expression

Faculty members and researchers shall be encouraged to express academic opinions, participate in scholarly discussions, attend conferences, deliver academic lectures, and share research findings through publications, seminars, workshops, and other appropriate platforms.

Academic personnel may engage in public academic discourse within their areas of expertise. When expressing personal views, they should distinguish those views from official University positions wherever necessary.

4.4. Publication and Dissemination of Research

The University shall support the publication and dissemination of research findings through recognized journals, books, conferences, seminars, repositories, and other suitable scholarly channels in accordance with the University's Research Promotion Policy.

Researchers shall comply with publication ethics, authorship requirements, confidentiality obligations, intellectual property provisions, funding conditions, and applicable University policies.

4.5. Freedom from Undue Interference

The University shall endeavour to ensure that academic decisions concerning legitimate research, teaching, and scholarly expression are not subjected to arbitrary or improper interference.

No individual shall be subjected to intimidation, discrimination, or retaliation solely for exercising academic freedom responsibly and in good faith. This provision shall not prevent legitimate academic evaluation, performance review, or action taken in accordance with established procedures for substantiated misconduct.

SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY * MEERUT * Registrar

4.6. Research Collaboration and Academic Engagement

Faculty members and researchers may engage in academic collaborations, professional networks, conferences, research projects, and scholarly exchanges, subject to applicable approval procedures, conflict-of-interest requirements, funding conditions, and University regulations.

4.7. Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

Academic freedom shall be exercised consistently with the University's applicable IPR Policy, research agreements, confidentiality requirements, and data protection obligations.

5. Responsibilities of Faculty Members and Researchers

All individuals covered by this policy shall:

5.1. Uphold academic integrity, honesty, fairness, and professional ethics.

5.2. Ensure that research and teaching activities comply with applicable laws, ethical standards, and University regulations.

5.3. Respect diverse opinions and encourage constructive academic dialogue.

5.4. Acknowledge sources appropriately and avoid plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and other forms of academic misconduct.

5.5. Protect confidential information and respect privacy, intellectual property, and research participants' rights.

5.6. Disclose relevant conflicts of interest and comply with applicable funding and research approval requirements.

5.7. Exercise academic freedom responsibly, without engaging in unlawful discrimination, harassment, threats, or other forms of misconduct.

6. Implementation

The University Research and Development Cell and academic departments shall support the implementation of this policy within their respective areas of responsibility.

7. Review and Amendment

This policy shall be reviewed periodically, as and when required.

17.02.2026

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