

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**16.2.6 Have a policy on supporting academic freedom (freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research)**

Yes, UBT upholds academic freedom as a fundamental principle that drives its mission to advance knowledge, innovation, and education. UBT's Academic Freedom Policy ensures that faculty members, researchers, and students have the right to freely choose their areas of research and to express, publish, and teach ideas within their academic disciplines without fear of censorship or undue interference (see Evidence No. 1: Academic Freedom). This commitment fosters a culture of intellectual rigor, creativity, and critical thinking, benefiting both the academic community and society at large.

UBT empowers both senior and junior academics to independently shape their research agendas, secure funding, publish their work, attend conferences, and collaborate with national and international institutions, provided these activities align with UBT's values, policies, and Saudi Arabian laws (See evidence No. 2 University support for research). Faculty members are encouraged to engage in public discourse, share their findings, and address societal challenges through their expertise while clarifying personal opinions as distinct from UBT's institutional stance.

In addition, academics at all levels are free to design and deliver courses aligned with their expertise, develop innovative teaching methodologies, and integrate their research findings into their teaching. This approach ensures that students benefit from up-to-date knowledge and real-world applications, enhancing the relevance and impact of their learning experiences.

UBT provides robust support for junior academics through the Deanship of Scientific Research and academic researchers assigned to individual colleges. This ensures they have the resources and guidance needed to pursue their research and teaching goals, further reinforcing the university's commitment to nurturing academic growth and excellence.

While promoting academic freedom, UBT ensures that all teaching and research activities adhere to ethical guidelines, professional standards, and institutional values (see Evidence No. 3: Ethical Guidelines). Faculty and researchers are expected to promote respect, avoid offensive content, and operate within a safe, supportive, and fair academic environment.

## Academic Freedom Policy

<b>Policy Code:</b>	AA.16.01
<b>Policy Version No:</b>	Ver. 1.0
<b>Approval Date:</b>	17/9/2024
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	17/9/2024
<b>Revision Date:</b>	September 2027
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	University Vice Rectorate for Academic Affairs

### **Documentation Administration**

- Any hard copy of this document without the signed first page or unprotected soft copy is regarded as an uncontrolled copy.
- This document is considered obsolete once printed
- No part of this publication should be used or reproduced in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without prior written permission of the Governance Department.

### **1. Purpose**

The academic freedom is the central right of any academician and an academic institution. Academic freedom is termed as an open and multi-dimensional deliberation on a topic in an academic context. This policy provides a clear

statement of the position of UBT with regard to Academic Freedom. Academic freedom, as well as academic responsibility, extends to all the aspects of a faculty and students member's code of conduct.

Faculty members at UBT are free to engage in their scholarly pursuits of teaching, research, and related activities within certain conditions necessary to fulfill the mission of UBT of generating new knowledge and effectively communicating this knowledge with students and community.

## 2. Scope

---

This policy sets out the conditions that permit UBT faculty members and student to engage in their scholarly pursuits of teaching, research, learning, and related activities free from interference or obstruction.

- All faculty members with teaching, research, and community services responsibilities, including visiting, adjunct, and part-time faculty.
- All students with learning, research, and community services responsibilities.

## 3. Definitions & Acronyms

---

### 3.1 Definitions

Term	Definition
Academic freedom	Academic freedom is the space given to both faculty members and students to engage in intellectual teaching learning, research and community service responsibilities without fear of retaliation.
Academic responsibility	Academic responsibility implies the faithful performance of professional duties and obligations, the recognition of the demands of UBT, and the candor to make it with integrity

### 3.2 Acronyms

Term	Definition

UBT	University of Business and Technology
-----	---------------------------------------

#### 4. Policy Principles and statement

---

1. UBT is committed to guaranteeing to faculty and students the right to express themselves when engaging in teaching, learning, research and community services.
2. UBT embraces the freedoms of study, inquiry, and debate while protecting and respecting the rights of others and the culture and law of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and supported by following principles:
  - This policy does not override UBT policies concerning academic ethics and misconduct.
  - UBT encourages a diversity of teaching and learning methods including plans aimed to help the students to work and learn in autonomous environment of conviction and freedom of thought.
  - UBT aims to maintain an effective, harmless, and supportive learning environment and promote an equitable & fair atmosphere in their relationships with students.

#### 5. University Freedom:

---

UBT, as an academic institution has freedom from admin, academic and financial Perspectives in respect to the regulation and bylaws of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

- Admin Perspective, UBT has the freedom to manage its internal affairs, draw up its organizational structures, exercise its basic administrative functions, and draw up its own legislation, laws, and regulations.
- Academic perspective, UBT has the freedom to choose its system, programs, curricula, and teaching methods, to organize activities and examinations, and to determine the appropriate evaluation system for its students, the conditions for their admission, and their numbers in proportion to their capabilities.
- Financial perspective, UBT has the freedom to draw up its financial regulations, to spend it flexibly in all budgetary sections, and to provide multiple financial resources by providing self-financial sources for the university.

UBT shall protect and promote academic freedom by allowing faculty members and students to engage in enquiry, research, teaching, and learning.

UBT shall recognize viewpoints' diversity and the right to express lawfully opinions on university campuses and in public mediums.

## 5.1 Faculty Academic Freedom

- Academic freedom is limited to values and practices agreed upon by the College Council or University Council in addition to the current UBT values and policies.
- Faculty members have the freedom to select the courses they are interested in teaching based on their expertise and backgrounds, in respect to the department's need.
- Faculty members have the freedom to present their material in their own teaching methodology as long as the course content is delivered as described in the syllabus and approved by the Dep./College/University/ SC if needed.
- Faculty members can review and amend any courses through the College curriculum review committee and the Institutional Curriculum review committee if it is a major change, in respect to the related regulations.
- Faculty members are expected to ensure the delivery of the academic content of the course, and promote fundamental values of the rule of law, human rights, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths, beliefs, and opinions.
- Faculty members shall avoid promoting or giving a platform for furthering extremist ideologies or terrorism.
- Faculty members have full freedom within the law to discuss in a classroom any material or ideas relevant to the course, subject to adequate fulfilment of other academic duties have without discrimination or suppression of any kind.
- Researchers have full freedom, within the bylaws and regulations of UBT, of conducting research, subject to adequate fulfilment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the subject matter of the research, its publication and dissemination, or the dissemination of it outside the university.
- Academic freedom must be accompanied by good judgment so that faculty avoid making statements which might be deemed offensive or irresponsible either verbally or in writing.
- When faculty members speak or write his personal perspectives, they should be accurate, truthful, show respect for others, and make clear that they are not speaking for the UBT.
- The faculty members shall make every reasonable exertion to promote honest academic conduct among their students and ensure that the assessments of students reflect their true performance.
- The faculty members have the freedom to publish in any peer reviewed journal with UBT Affiliations.

- Faculty members have the freedom to participate in any conference they select relevant to their field and their research (Following the UBT rules and regulations).
- UBT provides equality between members of the academic community in teaching, learning and conducting research.
- Faculty members have the freedom to collaborate with their peers in terms of research, teaching and community service
- Faculty members have the freedom to select any community activity at the national and international level and contribute to its activities (Following the UBT rules and regulations).
- Faculty members can join any international association and become a member (Following the UBT rules and regulations).

### **5.2 Academic Freedom of Students:**

1. The students have the Freedom to choose the appropriate specialization.
2. Students have the Freedom of learning within a safe university environment.
3. The student's freedom to express their opinions through various means of university activity (Following the UBT rules and regulations).
4. The students should be protected and be given the right to challenge or give alternate views and not reprimanded for holding the same.
5. Students have full freedom within the law to discuss in a classroom any material or ideas relevant to the course, subject to adequate fulfilment of other academic duties without discrimination or suppression of any kind.

### **5.3 Intellectual awareness department**

It is the responsibility of the intellectual awareness department at UBT to provide the following services:

- Monitor, address, and report on deviant intellectual concepts within the university.
- Educating university employees and students about the values and principles of the moderate curriculum and addressing extreme ideas and deviant behaviors.
- Fostering a culture of dialogue and moderate thought among students and university personnel.
- Promoting the culture of moderation and the principles of tolerance and coexistence.

- Preventing and monitoring intellectual violations, extremist ideas, behavior, and negative phenomena at UBT in accordance with the controls determined by the Ministry of Education in light of the rules and regulations.

## 6. Related Documents

*This includes the following: (in hierarchical order), legislation, policies, other procedures and standards, guidelines, forms and other useful resources*

Document No.	Document Name	Document Type	Location
	UBT Governance Manual (2021)	Manual	
	Student Manual	Manual	

## 7. Version Control & Revision History

Version control	Date released	Approved by	Summary of changes

## 8. Approvals

University Council	Chair Name	Signature	Date
1/4/8	Dr. Weam Tunsi		17/9/2024