

HR POLICY/ BYLAW: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom is the right of AFG staff to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs. Academic freedom relates to the intellectual independence of academics in respect of their work, including the freedom to undertake research activities, and express their views.

AFG academics have the freedom to determine course content* which is mindful and respectful of the laws and culture that we operate in. Given the sensitivities around certain subjects, it would be prudent, where academics are unsure if an area of research could be perceived to be out of the norm, for this to be discussed with the relevant Head of Discipline. All AFG staff are required to respect the traditions of Qatar in both teaching and research activities and materials.

Guidance on respecting culture and tradition is available in the 'Contextualising for Qatar' document which has been shared with all staff. Any queries should be discussed with the relevant Head of Discipline in the first instance. All AFG academics enjoy the same freedom as defined in the Constitution of Qatar and other laws applicable in the country.

*Changes to the curriculum will still need to be agreed with the Link Tutor at the University of Aberdeen in line with the agreed 'roles and responsibilities' document.