



Academic Freedom Policy

Policy Domain:	Education
Policy Area:	Training Program
Policy Author:	National Education Committee
Contact:	Director Education Services
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Related Policies:	Appeals Policy

PURPOSE

The Australasian College of Dermatologists ('College') acknowledges and values the right and importance of academic freedom in the promotion and expression of a diverse variety of views and ideas. It acknowledges the importance of providing an environment where these views and ideas can be expressed and promote discussion, criticism and the pursuit of new and original ideas and the advancement of knowledge.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all work/activities associated with the College and undertaken for and behalf of the College

THE POLICY

The College endorses the concept of academic freedom and encourages Fellows, Trainees and staff to conduct scholarly interpretation and application of theories and ideas. This includes respecting the work of others and promoting an open, supportive academic culture that values the contributions and academic freedoms of others.

Such academic freedom, however, does not include the teaching of doctrines or propagandizing causes inconsistent with the stated purpose of the College.

Academic freedom includes:

- respect for the rights of others, including their academic freedom
- freedom to speak in a professional manner in the workplace
- freedom from personal force and violence
- freedom from harassment.

- Freedom to engage in critical enquiry
- Freedom to engage in scholarly endeavor
- Freedom to engage in public discourse

The College will provide an environment that:

- preserves, defends and promotes the principles of academic freedom for Fellows, Trainees, students and staff.
- encourages the debate, discussion and expression of diverse opinions in the areas of clinical practice and education.
- recognizes the rights of individuals to express views and opinions that may cause offense, but that any discussions are undertaken reasonably and in good faith.
- protects the right of Fellows, Trainees, students and staff to exercise academic freedom of expression and not be disadvantaged, exploited or subject to less favourable treatment by College for doing so.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FELLOWS, TRAINEES, STUDENTS AND STAFF

With rights come responsibilities. Personnel may hold their own views and speak freely on all topics, even outside their expertise, and even identifying themselves as members of the College. However, if they do so in the public arena on topics outside their expertise, they must consider whether it is reasonable in the circumstances to link their comments to their association with the College and act accordingly.

Academic freedom of expression is subject to the following general principles:

- All discourse should be undertaken reasonably and in good faith
- All discourse should be in accord with principles governing academic truth, research, ethics and perceived conflict of interest.