



**UCQ**  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE QUAYSIDE

---

# Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policy

---

Version: 2

Revision date: 11/09/2020

Due for review: 11/09/2022

## Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Academic freedom.....                    | 3 |
| 2. Academic freedom: Responsibilities.....  | 3 |
| 2. Freedom of speech.....                   | 3 |
| 4. Freedom of speech: Prevent .....         | 4 |
| 5. Freedom of speech: Responsibilities..... | 4 |

## 1. Academic freedom

- 1.1 This policy statement applies to all staff, students and associates of University Centre Quayside (UCQ).
- 1.2 Academic freedom is the freedom to engage in research, scholarship, or other creative work in order to expand knowledge, to publish research findings, to teach and to learn in an atmosphere of unfettered free inquiry and exposition. It is an essential element of higher education institutions in making proper contribution to the common good.
- 1.3 UCQ is committed to ensuring that academic staff, students and other members of UCQ have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without being targeted for repression, job loss, detriment or loss of privileges.
- 1.4 UCQ is also committed to ensuring staff have the right to criticise the functioning of higher education institutions, including UCQ, without placing themselves in jeopardy.

## 2. Academic freedom: Responsibilities

- 2.1 Whilst academic freedom is actively encouraged within UCQ, academic staff must not make statements that are at variance with the core values of UCQ. Academic staff members must be at all times accurate, exercise appropriate restraint and show respect for the opinions of others. Further, they should make every effort to indicate that they do not speak on behalf of UCQ unless expressly instructed to do so.
- 2.2 Academic staff, students and associates of UCQ must refrain from all forms of harassment, prejudice and unfair discrimination whether on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, class, caring responsibilities, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or other status or personal characteristic or belief.

## 2. Freedom of speech

- 3.1 This policy statement applies to all staff, students and associates of University Centre Quayside (UCQ).
- 3.2 UCQ is fully committed to the principle, and to the promotion, of freedom of speech and expression. All staff, students and associates of UCQ have the right to discuss difficult and sensitive topics, and to feel safe, welcomed and respected at UCQ, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, social background, personal characteristic or belief.
- 3.3 UCQ will take steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for staff, students, associates and visiting speakers. This includes a responsibility to ensure that the use of UCQ premises is not denied to any individual or group on the grounds of the belief or views of that individual or any member of that group or on the grounds of the policy or objectives of the group. UCQ is, however, under no legal obligation to allow meetings to be open to members of the public.
- 3.4 Laws to protect national security and public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime and for the protection of the reputation or rights of others will be upheld by UCQ.

#### 4. Freedom of speech: Prevent

- 4.1 UCQ is committed to upholding the Prevent Duty, a duty imposed under The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 that aims to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. UCQ will continue to uphold this duty during the management of events, guest speakers and use of UCQ premises.

#### 5. Freedom of speech: Responsibilities

- 5.1 Freedom of speech within UCQ needs to be set in the context of the UCQ core values, and the values of a civilised, democratic and inclusive society. UCQ expect all members of the UCQ community to be sensitive to the diversity of its inclusive community and to show respect to all sections of that community.
- 5.2 UCQ will not permit its premises be used for a particular event, activity or discussion if the views, ideas or activity:
- 5.2.1 Infringe the rights of others, or
  - 5.2.2 Discriminate against them, or
  - 5.2.3 Constitute views that risk drawing people into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups, or
  - 5.2.4 Constitutes a criminal offence, or
  - 5.2.5 Constitutes a threat to public order or to the health and safety of individuals, or
  - 5.2.6 Incites others to commit criminal acts, or
  - 5.2.7 Is contrary to the civil and human rights of individuals