



Research Independence / Academic Freedom Policy

1. PURPOSE

This policy shows that East Bridge University (EBU) is dedicated to academic freedom, research independence, intellectual honesty, and responsible scholarship in all teaching, research, publishing, and academic work.

EBU is a global institution and knows that academic freedom and independent research are key to improving education and society. The university supports scholars, researchers, faculty, and students as they seek knowledge, share their views, and do research in an ethical and responsible way, without facing discrimination, censorship, intimidation, or outside pressure.

This policy helps EBU make sure that questioning, critical thinking, evidence-based discussion, and ethical research are valued and protected in its academic environment.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies across all EBU divisions, including:

- Academic and research activities conducted by faculty, researchers, doctoral scholars, and learners
- Research publications, conferences, webinars, and academic collaborations
- Curriculum development and academic discourse
- Partnerships, funding arrangements, sponsorships, and external collaborations related to research and scholarly activities
- Online, blended, and international academic environments facilitated by EBU

This policy applies to all employees, students, institutional partners, visiting scholars, and external collaborators engaged in academic or research-related activities on behalf of East Bridge University.

3. DEFINITIONS

Academic Freedom: Academic freedom means that scholars, teachers, and students can explore, discuss, teach, research, publish, and share ideas or findings in a responsible and ethical way, without unfair limits or fear of punishment from the university or outside groups.

Research Independence: Research independence means that researchers and academic staff can conduct, interpret, and share research fairly, without being influenced by money, politics, business, beliefs, or personal interests.

Conflict of Interest: A conflict of interest happens when personal, financial, or outside interests could affect someone's professional judgment, fairness, or honesty in academic work.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

East Bridge University works to create a culture of open thinking, ethical scholarship, and independent research. The university believes that academic freedom and research independence are important for trust, learning, and new ideas in all fields and around the world.

EBU supports faculty, researchers, and students in doing their academic work responsibly, sharing their views respectfully, and taking part in open academic debate without unfair limits. The university expects everyone in its community to act ethically, be honest in research, act professionally, and respect different viewpoints.

The university understands that academic freedom must go together with accountability, ethical behaviour, and responsibility. This helps make sure that research and academic work benefit society and help grow knowledge.

5. POLICY DECLARATION

EBU will continue to support academic freedom and research independence by following these principles and commitments:

5.1 Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry: The university helps faculty, researchers, and students explore new ideas, do independent research, and join thoughtful academic discussions in their fields.

5.2 Protection from Undue Influence: Research, teaching, publishing, and academic decisions should not be influenced by improper political, business, belief-based, financial, or outside pressures that could affect fairness or honesty.

5.3 Ethical and Responsible Research: All research at EBU must adhere to accepted ethical standards and the university's rules for research integrity. Researchers should work honestly, openly, and responsibly, and show respect for participants, communities, and others' ideas.

5.4 Integrity in Publication and Dissemination: Faculty, researchers, and students can publish and share their research findings responsibly and accurately. The university supports open academic discussion and works to ensure research is honest, trustworthy, and up to scholarly standards.

5.5 Respectful Academic Expression: EBU encourages open academic debate and respectful exchange of ideas across disciplines, cultures, and viewpoints. Academic freedom should always be exercised responsibly and never to support discrimination, harassment, false information, or harm.

5.6 Research Funding and External Partnerships: The university values research partnerships and outside funding, but makes sure these relationships do not affect academic independence, fairness, or ethics. All funding, sponsorships, and research partnerships must be transparent and fit EBU's values and rules.

5.7 Conflict of Interest Disclosure: Everyone involved in research or academic decisions must share any real or possible conflicts of interest that could affect their judgment, fairness, or academic work.

5.8 Data Protection and Confidentiality: EBU recognises the importance of protecting research data, confidential information, and sensitive academic materials. All individuals involved in research and scholarly activities are expected to manage data responsibly, maintain confidentiality, and follow applicable ethical, institutional, and legal requirements.

5.9 Intellectual Property Protection: The university respects and protects the intellectual contributions of faculty, researchers, students, and collaborators. EBU encourages responsible knowledge sharing while ensuring that authorship, originality, ownership, and academic contributions are appropriately recognised and safeguarded.

5.10 Research Misconduct: EBU maintains a zero-tolerance approach towards research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, unethical authorship, or deliberate violation of research ethics. Any concerns relating to misconduct will be reviewed fairly and responsibly through appropriate institutional procedures.

5.11 Protection Against Retaliation: No one should face unfair treatment, intimidation, discrimination, or retaliation for doing ethical academic work, sharing their views responsibly, or raising real academic or research concerns in good faith.

5.12 Academic Integrity in Digital and Global Learning Environments: As a digitally connected university, EBU promises to protect academic freedom and research integrity in all online, blended, and international learning and research settings.

5.13 Governance, Transparency and Accountability: The university will keep proper governance, ethical review, and oversight systems to support responsible research, check compliance, and strengthen accountability in academic and research activities.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

Unit	Key Responsibilities
University Leadership	- Promote institutional commitment to academic freedom and research independence - Ensure governance structures support ethical and independent scholarly activity
Research Office / Research Ethics Committee	- Oversee research ethics processes and integrity standards - Review ethical compliance, conflicts of interest, and research governance procedures
Faculty and Researchers	- Conduct research responsibly and ethically - Maintain academic integrity and disclose conflicts of interest where necessary
Students and Doctoral Scholars	- Uphold ethical academic conduct in learning, research, and publication activities - Respect intellectual property and responsible scholarly practices
Institutional Partners and External Collaborators	- Respect EBU's principles of academic independence and ethical research conduct - Avoid exerting undue influence over research activities or outcomes

7. REVIEW & MONITORING

EBU will regularly check how well this policy is working by:

- Periodic review of research ethics and governance practices
- Monitoring of research integrity concerns and reported cases
- Review of partnership and funding arrangements related to research activities
- Feedback from faculty, researchers, students, and academic stakeholders
- Continuous alignment with international best practices in academic freedom and research integrity

This policy will be reviewed from time to time to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and aligned with evolving academic, ethical, and regulatory standards.



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