

Istanbul Topkapı University Academic Freedom Policy

Istanbul Topkapı University embraces academic freedom and freedom of expression as fundamental principles. Our Academic Freedom Policy aims to ensure that faculty members, researchers, and students can operate in a free environment in the processes of producing knowledge, learning, teaching, and conducting research. Our university promotes an academic culture based on freedom of thought and expression, while opposing any form of pressure, censorship, or interference in academic work. This policy aims to safeguard a free academic environment for scientific development and social contribution.

Core Values

The Academic Freedom Policy of Istanbul Topkapı University is based on the following fundamental values:

1. **Freedom of Thought and Expression:** Teaching staff, researchers and students may freely express their opinions in the processes of knowledge production and sharing and may act freely in academic work.
2. **Scientific Independence:** Academic research is conducted independently of any external pressure, censorship or interference regarding information and scientific findings. Scientific studies are evaluated according to objective criteria.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Our university encourages critical thinking. Respect for different perspectives and ideas is fostered, and discussions are supported in a free environment.
4. **Academic Accountability:** In addition to academic freedom, teaching staff, researchers and students are obliged to act in accordance with ethical principles and academic responsibilities in their scientific work.
5. **Pluralism and Diversity:** Different scientific approaches, methodologies and opinions are treated with respect within the university community. Our university provides an environment that encourages diversity and allows for the development of different academic opinions.

Academic Freedom Policy Strategies

Istanbul Topkapı University implements the following strategies to safeguard and enhance academic freedom:

1. **Free and Independent Research Environment:** Our university provides all the necessary conditions for academic research and scientific activities to be conducted independently and freely. Academic work is kept free from any political, ideological or economic pressure.
2. **Freedom of Thought and Expression Platforms:** Our university creates seminars, conferences, workshops and discussion platforms where teaching staff, researchers

and students can freely share their thoughts. An environment where different views can be freely expressed is encouraged.

3. **Academic Publication and Research Freedom:** The content of scientific articles, books and other academic publications is developed in accordance with academic freedom. Scientific work is shared without censorship or interference in the publication process.
4. **Critical Thinking and Discussion Environment:** Our university supports critical thinking and encourages academic staff and students to develop a critical perspective on scientific and social issues. Academic freedom ensures that discussions can take place freely.
5. **Principles of Academic Ethics and Responsibility:** Academic freedom is balanced by responsibility. Teaching staff, researchers and students are obliged to adhere to ethical rules and principles of scientific integrity in academic work.
6. **Protection Against Academic Pressures:** Our university protects academic staff, researchers and students from any pressure or censorship regarding their academic work. Violations of academic freedom are dealt with swiftly.
7. **Promoting Pluralism and Diversity of Thought:** Our university supports the coexistence of various scientific views and methodological approaches. An academic environment is created where different academic perspectives are compared, discussed and developed.

Objectives

The objectives of Istanbul Topkapı University's Academic Freedom Policy are as follows:

1. **The Advancement of Academic Freedom:** To broaden the scope of academic freedom and ensure that policies supporting this freedom are more widely implemented across the university.
2. **Empowering Critical Thinking:** Increase participation in seminars, workshops and conferences that promote critical thinking among university faculty members, researchers and students by 40%.
3. **Encouraging Diversity of Thought:** To increase intellectual diversity at the university by 30 percent by providing a free environment for debate where different scientific and academic views can coexist.
4. **Guarantee against Academic Pressure:** Strengthening effective protection mechanisms against academic pressure and censorship across our university and reducing such violations to zero.
5. **Promoting Ethical Responsibility:** To increase ethical awareness among teaching staff and students by 50 percent by fostering compliance with academic ethical principles and a sense of responsibility.

Istanbul Topkapı University, by supporting its academic freedom policy, undertakes to create a free, independent and responsible academic environment for teaching staff, researchers and

students, and to contribute to scientific development. Our university ensures the continuous development and implementation of this policy.