


Royal Academy of Dance Faculty of Education

Statement on Academic Freedom

The legal basis on Academic Freedom

1. The legal basis of Academic Freedom is expressed in Section 202(2) of the Education Reform Act 1988, which requires *qualifying institutions* “to have regard to the following needs;
 - 1.1. To ensure that academic staff have freedom within the law 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 or privileges they may have at their institutions;
 - 1.2. To enable qualifying institutions to provide education, promote learning and engage in research efficiently and economically, and
 - 1.3. To apply the principles of justice and fairness.”
2. Academic Freedom includes the right(s) to:
 - 2.1. Freedom in teaching and discussion
 - 2.2. Freedom in carrying out research without commercial or political interference
 - 2.3. Freedom to disseminate and publish one’s research findings
 - 2.4. Freedom from institutional censorship, including the right to express one’s opinion publicly about the institution or the educational system in which one works, and
 - 2.5. Freedom to participate in professional and representative academic bodies, including trade unions.
3. The right of Academic Freedom is balanced by the obligation to use that freedom responsibly, within the context of professional values and the scope of an individual’s professional authority.
4. Academic freedom also comes with the responsibility to respect the democratic rights and freedoms of others including other academic staff, students, visitors and wider society.
 - 4.1. The right to Academic Freedom does not support or promote individuals or groups who incite hatred or violence against any group, or seek to

- undermine society's or a group's fundamental democratic rights and freedoms.
- 4.2. In presenting particular perspectives to students, staff and external audiences, such viewpoints should have some grounding in scholarship, evidence and wider context and are subject to robust debate, including accommodating contrary perspectives and opinions.
 - 4.3. Academic staff are often seen as representative voices of a particular discipline, subject area, department or the whole organisation and should not seek to express their views in such a way as to bring any of these into disrepute.
 - 4.4. Research is presented in line with professional norms of the academic community including standards of ethics, procedure, evidence and argument.
 - 4.5. Research cannot be conducted in isolation from lawful conduct and enquiry, RAD policies and internal and external considerations which may define the scope or terms and conditions of the research.
 - 4.6. The exercise of Academic Freedom should not undermine individuals' or groups' rights to privacy and family life, or make them subject to discrimination.
 - 4.7. Research should be subject to the RAD's ethical procedures and, where research involves access to sensitive material (including extremism-related material for research purposes) is approved as a bona fide academic activity. As an exempt charity, the Executive Board and Board of Trustees have an indirect duty to the Charity Commission and a direct responsibility to the Office for Students as 'principal regulator' of the Royal Academy of Dance for this purpose, to report any association with a proscribed organisation as a 'serious incident', other than for bona fide academic research cited above.
5. Academic Freedom also involves the ability of academics to participate in institutional governance. This includes membership of elected academic staff members on the Royal Academy of Dance:
- 5.1. Education Sub-committee
 - 5.2. Faculty of Education Policy and Strategy Committee
 - 5.3. Faculty of Education Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee

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