



**UPC ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY**

UPC is an innovative institution dedicated to educating, researching, and promoting knowledge, culture, and development. Its mission is educating upstanding and innovative leaders with a global vision, who will transform Perú.

With the objective of achieving its mission, UPC is committed to guarantees academic freedom, which consists of the freedom to research, teach, learn, express and discuss ideas, and publish, without restrictions or fear of censorship or retaliation for religious, political, ideological, economic, or any other reasons. These freedoms involve duties and rights, most notably the importance of respect. Likewise, academic freedom is not limited by external pressures of any kind.

This freedom is guaranteed in two senses: as free will and as autonomy; that is, as the real capacity to choose between two or more options (free will); and, on the other hand, the capacity to develop the potentialities inherent to the person himself based on his own reality and surroundings, so that he may be himself (autonomy). From this vantage point, academic freedom is understood not only as the capacity to choose between several possible academic options (free will), but also as the capacity to set off in search of knowledge (autonomy).

Under these circumstances, the different academic orientations or standards external to the professors or students do not act as limitations on academic freedom. To the contrary, they promote the development of the maximum and highest potentialities of each individual, encouraging a rigorous search for the truth. In the understanding that the University is an environment of formation, research, and social outreach, UPC seeks to ensure that free will permanently exists in harmony with the greater good of each person and of society as a whole.

The faculty members are entitled to the freedom to teach, provided they comply with the objectives and nature of the courses for which they are responsible. This freedom consists of the ability to choose the materials, means, designs, and forms of addressing the thematic guidelines corresponding to their courses.

The students are entitled to the freedom to learn, given that they can choose, according to the procedures established by the University, the major they wish to study and the elective courses of interest to them. This freedom also includes the possibility of choosing, where applicable, the thematic guidelines of interest to them that may aid in improving their knowledge of any particular matter.

In terms of the freedom to express and discuss ideas, respect for the human condition involves an interest in familiarizing oneself with, learning, promoting, respecting, and tolerating the opportune and appropriate expression of different ideas. The academic institution, through its faculty, its student body, and its administrative staff, must evince a sincere interest in the construction of knowledge based on these ideas. Beyond any differences and possible discrepancies that people may express with regard to topics and ideas, they must seek, find, facilitate, and foster reliable spaces for exchange, expression, debate, and listening to ideas.

**Approved by:**  
Endorsement

**Date:**  
Sept. 16, 2015



The discussion of ideas takes on great value, provided it is rooted in free expression. The professors and students must be given the guarantees, spaces, and environment necessary to share, and discuss them, thus allowing them to make a significant contribution to the construction of knowledge. Discussing ideas means recognizing the value of others' proposals. This involves respecting religious, political, ideological, or economic differences, among others, all of which are vital for the formation of well-rounded and innovative leaders with an overarching vision able to transform the space in which they act.

Freedom of research, so essential to academic life, not only respects but promotes the diversity of methods corresponding to the different disciplines, and encourages the selection of innovative paths for obtaining new knowledge to the benefit of society as a whole. As such, professors and students are encouraged to freely choose their areas of research, as well as the topics and methods of their research, provided these do not violate the dignity and greater good of the human being, nor the common good of the University and society at large, given that these rights are a guarantee of authentic and integral academic freedom.

For this reason, professors' and students' freedom to publish is also governed by these principles of integral academic freedom. Thus, the articles published in scientific journals are the responsibility of each other author, while at the same time being governed by internationally recognized ethical standards for this type of dissemination of knowledge. Analogously, the books and other, more general types of cultural dissemination are also chosen by the respective authors, with regard to topic and contents, but are submitted to the judgment of an editorial board that ensures the intellectual and ethical rigor of such publications.

In this way, UPC undertakes to respect and promote academic freedom, as understood based on purely academic aspects, and not conditioned by external factors, whether political, religious, economic, or of any other nature, that may run contrary to its *raison d'être*.

<b>Approved by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
José Pereyra Vice-Rector for Academic and Research Affairs	Edward Roekaert Rector	Sept. 16, 2015

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