

**POLICY TITLE:** Intellectual and Academic Freedom

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure freedom of creative expression and intellectual inquiry are treated as paramount values by PSC. This policy also aims to give guidance to academic staff as to their rights and responsibilities in order to pursue critical and open inquiries

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) wishes to develop itself, within the resources available, as a centre of innovation and scholarship in photography and related practices. Its model of teaching will emphasise reflective practice and intellectual inquiry, focused on the practice of professional photography.

The Board of the College has formally adopted the Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom recommended by the French Review to give full expression to the College's commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom. The Code operates as an overarching policy and if there is any conflict between it and this or related policies the Code prevails.

**Policy**

Academic staff members, as employees of Photography Studies College (Melbourne) have the right to:

- Pursue critical and open inquiry within an environment of artistic and academic freedom and to publish their results without undue restriction, but subject to scholarly standards and legal requirement
- Participate in public debates and express opinions about issues and ideas related to their academic and professional areas, about higher education issues as they affect this institution and about higher education issues more generally
- Participate in decision making structures and processes within Photography Studies College (Melbourne)
- Participate in professional and representative bodies without fear of harassment or intimidation
- Teach, promote learning, assess and develop curricula
- Engage in community service without fear of harassment, intimidation or unfair treatment

Academic staff members have the right to express unpopular or controversial views, but this does not mean that they have a right to harass, vilify or intimidate.

These rights are linked to the responsibilities of staff to support the role of Photography Studies College (Melbourne) as a place of academic freedom, independent learning and thought, where ideas may be put forward and opinion expressed freely and as an institution which must be accountable for its expenditure of public and private money.

The freedoms supported by the Code, and this policy, are subject to the restraints and burdens imposed by:

- law;

- the reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct necessary to the discharge of the College's teaching and research activities;
- the reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct to enable the College to fulfil its duty to foster the wellbeing of students and staff; and
- the right and freedom of others to express themselves and to hear and receive information and opinions. "

Any alleged limitation of these rights can be raised, in the first instance, through the Photography Studies College (Melbourne) Grievance Procedure.

## **Definitions**

Intellectual and academic freedom refers to the rights of academic staff to freedom of creative expression and their responsibilities as staff to support the role of Photography Studies College (Melbourne) as a place of independent learning, practice and thought; particularly in the fields of producing and presenting imagery and its critical appraisal.

For PSC students enrolled in a higher education course, academic freedom is the freedom of students to engage in creative expression and intellectual enquiry, to express opinions and beliefs, and to contribute to public debate in relation to their subjects of study and higher education governance and management generally; to participate through the Student Consultative Committee in academic governance at the College, and to form and participate in any other student associations (e.g. PSC Pals).

## **Related Documentation**

### **Code**

Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

### **Policies**

Academic Integrity  
Plagiarism  
Intellectual Property  
Staff Code of Conduct  
Student Conduct  
Social Media  
Acceptable Use of Internet and Communication Systems

### **Procedures, Forms & Documents**

Nil

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