

ESCP Europe Business School

Statement on Academic Freedom

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1. The Education Reform Act 1988 Section 202(2) provides legal basis to academic staff to exercise their right of academic freedom and requires institutions:
 - a) 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;
 - b) to enable qualifying institutions to provide education, promote learning and engage in research efficiently and economically; and
 - c) to apply the principles of justice and fairness.

2. ESCP Europe believes that academic freedom provides a foundation for faculty excellence. We strongly adhere to the common tenets of academic freedom and support faculty to engage in their research and teaching activities as they see fit without fear of censorship or recrimination. We are committed to providing academic freedom to our faculty, students and other members of the School within the law; whereby they can inquire, challenge and test the received knowledge, present new, contentious and unpopular views without the fear of losing their jobs or rights.

3. However, due care must be taken when applying academic freedom, as in practice, it is subject to limitations. The views and ideas should be sensitive to the humanist and societal values and the diversity which characterise the School. They should be careful not to promote or present the views which can be interpreted to be discriminatory in terms of gender, race, sexual orientation, age, belief or any other personal characteristics. Whilst in debate with other colleagues or opponents, the ethics of mutual respect must not be lost. In addition, academic staff should never make statements that are inconsistent with the values of the School, which they have contractually agreed to support.