



Ref. No.: KRMU/Admin./O.O./2023-24/3752

Date: 27.12.2023

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Academic Freedom Policy of K.R. Mangalam University

The University has formulated and adopted the “Academic Freedom Policy” to uphold the principles of intellectual independence, creativity, and scholarly integrity. The policy ensures that faculty, researchers, and students can freely engage in teaching, learning, and research activities while adhering to ethical and institutional standards.

The said policy, as approved in the 57th Board of Management Meeting vide agenda item no. 57.26 held on 14.12.2023 is hereby notified for implementation with immediate effect across all Schools, Departments, and Administrative Units of K.R. Mangalam University.

This order is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Registrar
K.R. Mangalam University
Sohna Road, Gurugram (Haryana)

Registrar
K.R. Mangalam University

Copy to:

- Hon’ble Vice Chancellor – for kind information
- Dean Academic Affairs
- Dean-Research
- Dean Students Welfare
- Director-IQAC
- All Deans / Directors / Heads of Schools
- University Website
- Notice Board
- Office Copy



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE WORLD OF EDUCATION



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY



**K. R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
GURUGRAM
HARYANA-122103, INDIA**



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01. Preamble

- 1.1. Academic freedom is the cornerstone of intellectual growth, creativity, and institutional excellence.
- 1.2. K.R. Mangalam University (KRMU) recognizes the right of faculty and students to engage in free inquiry, research, teaching, learning, and expression without fear of censorship or undue interference.
- 1.3. This policy ensures that all members of the University can pursue knowledge responsibly, respecting diversity of thought while upholding academic integrity and institutional values.

02. Objectives

- 2.1. To guarantee the right of faculty and students to engage in intellectual debate and inquiry.
- 2.2. To safeguard pedagogical innovation and methodological diversity.
- 2.3. To provide autonomy in course delivery, study choices, and assessment modes.
- 2.4. To nurture a culture of constructive dissent and critical reflection.
- 2.5. To align academic freedom with institutional accountability and ethical responsibilities.

03. Scope and Applicability

- 3.1. Applicable to all faculty, researchers, and students enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes.
- 3.2. Extends to teaching, learning, research, publications, seminars, workshops, and institutional forums.
- 3.3. Covers both on-campus and online modes of delivery.

04. Guiding Principles

- 4.1. **Freedom of Inquiry:** Encourage open dialogue, debates, and critical thought.
- 4.2. **Pedagogical Autonomy:** Faculty determine methods of teaching suited to learning outcomes.
- 4.3. **Learner Choice:** Students are empowered to select courses, electives, and modes of study.



4.4. Constructive Dissent: Respectful disagreement with administrative or academic policies is protected.

4.5. Ethical Responsibility: Exercise of freedom must respect human dignity, cultural diversity, and academic honesty.

05. Policy Provisions

5.1 Right to Engage in Intellectual Debate without Fear of Censorship

- Faculty and students are entitled to openly discuss, critique, and analyze academic, social, political, cultural, and scientific issues, provided such debate respects dignity, diversity, and constitutional values.
- No member of the University shall be penalized or censored for expressing scholarly opinions, provided they adhere to standards of academic integrity and non-discrimination.
- Institutional platforms such as seminars, colloquia, research symposia, and student clubs will provide formal spaces for free academic exchange.
- Faculty retain the right to publish research findings or views in scholarly forums without administrative suppression, except in cases of violation of law or plagiarism.

5.2 Right to Pursue Pedagogical Methodology

- Faculty have autonomy in selecting instructional strategies (lectures, experiential learning, flipped classrooms, simulations, field-based learning, problem-solving methods, etc.), ensuring alignment with course learning outcomes.
- Innovative pedagogy, including integration of Indian Knowledge Systems, digital tools, interdisciplinary methods, and project-based learning, is explicitly encouraged.
- The University shall not impose uniform teaching styles; flexibility is recognized as essential for addressing diverse learners.
- Faculty members are encouraged to document and share innovative teaching practices for peer learning and institutional quality enhancement.

5.3 Right to Choose the Courses of Delivery or Study



- Students have the right to academic choice within the framework of the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) and multidisciplinary approach envisioned under NEP-2020.
- This includes the right to select electives across disciplines, pursue open electives, and design flexible learning pathways, subject to pre-requisites and capacity constraints.
- The University will publish transparent guidelines on course offerings, seat allocation, and registration to ensure fairness.
- Mechanisms for academic advising and counselling will be available to help students make informed course choices aligned with career aspirations.

5.4 Right to Disagree with Administrative Policies and Proposals

- Constructive dissent is acknowledged as vital for institutional growth and democracy in education.
- Faculty and students may express disagreement with academic or administrative policies through established channels such as:
 - Faculty bodies (Academic Council, Board of Studies, School Councils)
 - Student bodies (Student Council, Grievance Committees, IQAC feedback)
- Dissent must be expressed in a professional, respectful, and solution-oriented manner.
- No punitive measures shall be taken against members who respectfully disagree, except in cases involving misconduct, defamation, or violation of university codes of conduct.

5.5 Right to Determine the Mode of Course Delivery and Assessment

- Faculty have the right to choose delivery modes (offline, online, hybrid/blended) consistent with course objectives, infrastructure availability, and student needs.
- Assessment methods may include written exams, continuous assessment, project work, presentations, e-portfolios, viva voce, peer evaluation, or other innovative tools.
- Students will be informed of assessment criteria at the start of each semester for transparency.
- Faculty may experiment with alternative assessment strategies (e.g., open-book exams, reflective journals, case-based assessments) while ensuring fairness and academic rigor.



- The University reserves the right to set overarching quality benchmarks, but will not interfere with pedagogical innovation unless it compromises academic standards or regulatory compliance.

06. Roles and Responsibilities

- **University Leadership:** Uphold institutional environment conducive to academic freedom.
- **Deans and HoDs:** Facilitate faculty and student autonomy within regulatory frameworks.
- **Faculty:** Exercise freedom with integrity, ensuring inclusive pedagogy and fair assessment.
- **Students:** Engage actively, respect diversity of perspectives, and maintain academic honesty.
- **IQAC:** Monitor implementation, review cases of academic freedom concerns, and prepare reports for the Academic Council.

07. Monitoring and Grievance Redressal

- 7.1. Academic freedom concerns shall be documented through formal channels and reported to IQAC.
- 7.2. A Grievance Redressal Committee will address cases of infringement promptly and fairly.
- 7.3. Annual review reports will be shared with the Academic Council.

08. Alignment with NEP-2020, NAAC & SDGs

- **NEP-2020:** Promotes flexibility, learner autonomy, and academic innovation.
- **NAAC Criteria:** Enhances teaching-learning (2), research and innovation (3), governance and leadership (6).
- **SDGs:** Supports SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG-16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).



09. Review and Policy Amendments

- 9.1. The policy will be reviewed biennially by the Academic Council.
- 9.2. Amendments may be recommended by IQAC and approved by the Vice Chancellor.

10. Contact Information

Office of Academic Affairs

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