Name:	**Academic Freedom Policy**
Approved by:	Group Accreditation & Compliance Manager
Date Approved:	09.09.2019
Approved by:	General Manager - Technology & Design Division
Date Approved:	09.079.2019
Implementation Owner	Academic Dean
Maintenance Owner	Group Accreditation & Compliance
Review Date	09.09.2020

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Section 1 – Introduction

1) Purpose

The Academy of Information Technology (AIT) is committed to the protection and promotion of academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry within the Academy.

AIT will provide an environment that:
i) Preserves, defends and promotes the principles of academic freedom for staff and students.
ii) Encourages debate and expression of diverse opinions.
iii) Protects the right of staff and students to exercise academic freedom of expression and not be disadvantaged or subject to less favorable treatment for doing so.

2) Scope

This policy applies to: This procedure refers to the operations of the organisation in the VET and HE sectors.

Staff and students are expected to adhere to the provisions of relevant legislation and the policies and procedures of the Academy, the accepted ethical practices of the international higher education community and the standards of relevant academic research disciplines.

Free intellectual inquiry relies on a culture of scholarship undertaken without prejudice, with open – minded access and acknowledgement of the work of others, as the foundations for scholarships, learning and personal academic development.

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Section 2 – Policy

1) Principles

Academic staff and students of AIT have the right to access information about free intellectual inquiry, and are encouraged to freely cooperate with other scholars, students and teaching staff to reciprocally exchange information and ideas for significant advancements and create innovations and solutions to problems unimpeded by preconceived notions of outcomes by other staff or industry representatives.

All discourse in pursuit of free intellectual inquiry should be undertaken reasonably and in good faith.

Academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry at AIT is predicated on the following principles:

 i) Its courses are rigorous and challenging, taught by a faculty of industry-active professionals;
 ii) Its courses are delivered in a way that engages with advanced knowledge and inquiry, student- focused, informed by research, and which promotes intellectual enquiry, critical thinking and creative reasoning;
 iii) The learning environment fosters a culture of scholarship and critical reflection in an intellectual milieu of creativity and innovation;
 iv) The learning environment endeavors to support a culture of open-minded scholarship and to embed such personal scholastic development as part of its learning and teaching activities.

AIT aims to produce graduates who will contribute to an equitable and civilized society through their engagement in public-spirited programs, their embrace of the exciting pulse of the creative industries and their experimentation with new materials and sustainable technologies.

2) Staff rights and responsibilities

The right to academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry comes with responsibilities. All academic staff must therefore ensure that they approach all issues in a balanced, open fair and academically rigorous manner.

As scholars, academic staff must remember that their special position in the community imposes specific obligations. They should note that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their statements. Accordingly, they should at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint and show respect for the opinions of others.

The right to free intellectual inquiry and academic freedom does not extend to staff expressing views on topics other than those within their sphere of expertise and identifying themselves as being staff members of the Institute. Accordingly, members of the speaking, writing or otherwise communicating on matters not within the province of their academic expertise.

3) Publication

This procedure is published on the web sites of AIT to ensure students have up-to-date and accurate information publicly available to them.

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Section 3 – Reference and Supporting Information

1) Supporting documentation

Document name	Document type	Location
National Code 2018	Govt Standards	External
TEQSA Threshold Standards 2015	Regulatory Standards	External
ASQA Standards for RTO's 2015	Regulatory Standards	External
Privacy Act 1988	Govt Standards	External

Section 4 – Change History

1) Change History

Version	Approval date	Department	Approved by	Change
V1.0	27 February 2015	Academic	Dean	Development of Group Policy replacing existing entity level policies
		Technology & Design Division	General Manager	
V1.1	09 September 2019	Group Accreditation & Compliance	Compliance Manager	Update to new template
		Technology & Design Division	General Manager	