

Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression: Research Task and Finish Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Task and Finish Group is to provide research around academic freedom and freedom of expression at the University of Edinburgh to inform empirically the Coordinating Group.

Guiding Question(s)

1. What does our large and diverse university community understand about academic freedom and freedom of expression?
2. How does our university community experience academic freedom and freedom of expression?

Remit

The Task and Finish Group will:

1. undertake a piece of mixed-methods research across the University of Edinburgh to establish what the university community understands, and how it experiences, academic freedom and freedom of expression.
2. appraise itself of empirical research that has been undertaken elsewhere in the sector, in support of its own approach.

Membership

The Task and Finish Group membership will comprise those with relevant academic and professional expertise and experience.

Membership will be by invitation, following discussion between the Task and Finish Group Convenor and Convenor/Deputy Convenor of the Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Coordinating Group. However, the Group will be inclusive and will wish to engage a wide variety of stakeholders and contributions to develop its proposals and take forward and deliver the outcomes of the work.

Timescale and meeting arrangements

The number, frequency and format of meetings will be ordinarily monthly. However, additional meetings may be scheduled in support of the milestones and key deliverables. To ensure maximum participation, meetings may be online unless the purpose of the meeting would be better supported by a different mode.

The meeting agenda and any papers will normally be circulated via email, at least 5 working days prior to each meeting, and a note of actions will be circulated within 5 working days of each meeting.

Each group member is responsible for contributing opinions and relevant examples of experience for discussion at the group. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, they will be invited to submit a written contribution to the group, to ensure their views are considered in their absence.

Reporting

The Task and Finish Group will report regularly on its progress to the Coordinating Group and will support the achievement of deliverables within its focus area.

Governance and Operation

The Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Research Task and Finish Group reports to the Coordinating Group via the Task and Finish Group Convenor.