

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. Scope, plan and commission 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 undertaken elsewhere in the sector, supporting its own approach.
3. Support the Workstream Convenor & create a plan for the workstream, so that progress can be tracked and issues rectified.
4. Use their expertise and understanding to support the co ordinating group to identify and plan communications that are needed to support undertaking the research and escalation, publication or other dissemination of the results from the work

Membership

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

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.

Reporting

The Task & Finish Group will report monthly (using the standard reporting template) 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.