



Approved
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Scientific Council
dated 29.01.2026
Protocol № 8

**Policy on Academic Freedom
and Independence of Scientific Research
Non-Profit Joint Stock Company
«S.D. Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University»**

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1. General Provisions

1. This Policy on Academic Freedom and Independence of Scientific Research (hereinafter referred to as the *Policy*) establishes the principles and mechanisms for ensuring academic freedom and the independence of scientific research at the Non-Profit Joint Stock Company «S.D. Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University» (hereinafter referred to as the *University*).

2. The Policy has been developed in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Charter of the University, internal regulatory documents in the field of science and education, as well as with due regard to international principles of academic freedom, research ethics, and best university practices.

3. The Policy applies to faculty members, research staff, students of all levels, administrative and managerial personnel, as well as other individuals involved in the educational and research activities of the University.

4. The University regards academic freedom and the independence of scientific research as key conditions for the development of medical science, clinical practice, public health, and innovation.

2. Regulatory References

5. This Policy has been developed on the basis of the following external regulatory documents:

1) Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 30 August 1995;

2) Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Public Health and the Healthcare System» dated 7 July 2020 № 360-VI;

3) Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Science and Technology Policy» dated 1 July 2024 № 103-VIII;

4) Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Education» dated 27 July 2007 № 319-III;

5) Order of the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 21 December 2020 № KP DSM-310/2020 «Rules for Conducting Biomedical Research and Requirements for Research Centers»;

6) International Standard ISO 9001:2015, as well as approved documents of the quality management system (the University's quality policy and objectives, quality manual, documented quality procedures, etc.);

7) International Standard ISO 37001:2016, the anti-corruption policy, the University's anti-corruption standard, and the requirements of other internal regulatory documents of the University on anti-corruption.

6. In developing this Policy, the following internal regulatory documents were used:

1) Charter of the University;

2) Academic Policy of the University;

3) Regulations on the University Science and Technology Park;

4) Regulations on the University Local Bioethics Committee;

5) Regulations on the University Department of Science.

3. Principles of Policy Implementation

7. The Policy is based on the following principles:



- 1) freedom of scientific inquiry, teaching, and learning;
- 2) autonomy in choosing research directions, topics, and methodologies;
- 3) scientific integrity and academic honesty;
- 4) responsibility for the quality, reliability, and reproducibility of scientific results;
- 5) compliance with professional, bioethical, and research ethics standards;
- 6) inadmissibility of pressure, censorship, or discrimination in scientific and educational activities;
- 7) transparency and openness of the scientific process.

4. Academic Freedom

8. The University guarantees academic freedom to all participants in the educational and research process.

9. Academic freedom includes the right to:

- 1) independently choose forms, methods, and means of teaching within approved educational programs;
- 2) freely discuss and express scientific, professional, and clinical views;
- 3) conduct scientific research and publish its results;
- 4) participate in scientific discussions, conferences, consortia, projects, and academic mobility programs.

10. The exercise of academic freedom shall be carried out in compliance with the principles of academic responsibility, scientific ethics, and respect for the rights of patients, students, and other participants in the educational and research process.

5. Independence of Scientific Research

11. The University ensures that scientific research remains independent from political, ideological, religious, commercial, and other unlawful influence, while not restricting lawful forms of cooperation with industry or the commercialization of research results, provided that the principles of scientific independence are upheld.

12. Researchers independently determine research directions, design, and methods, and formulate conclusions and interpretations based on the obtained scientific data.

13. Sources of funding may not restrict the scientific autonomy of researchers, influence the interpretation of results, or require distortion of scientific conclusions.

14. The University guarantees the right of researchers to publish the results of scientific research, subject to compliance with legislative requirements, contractual terms, intellectual property regulations, and bioethical standards.

6. Research Ethics and Academic Integrity

15. All participants in scientific activity are obliged to adhere to the principles of research ethics, academic honesty, and integrity.

16. Plagiarism, fabrication and falsification of data, improper authorship, concealment or distortion of results, as well as pressure aimed at altering scientific conclusions, are inadmissible.

17. Consideration of violations is carried out in accordance with the procedures established by the University, including the procedures of the Local Bioethics Commission and other authorized bodies.



7. Institutional Guarantees

18. The University ensures the implementation of this Policy through the development of research infrastructure, support for scientific initiatives, access to international scientific resources, and stimulation of publication and international activity.

19. The governing bodies of the University shall not interfere in the content of scientific research and the educational process, except in cases stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

20. The University ensures protection of staff and students from any pressure, persecution, or sanctions related to the exercise of academic freedom and the independence of scientific research.

8. Responsibility and Oversight

21. Faculty members, researchers, and students bear responsibility for compliance with the provisions of this Policy.

22. Violations of the principles of academic freedom and independence of scientific research are considered in accordance with the procedures established by the University.

23. Heads of structural subdivisions bear responsibility for fostering an environment conducive to free, ethical, and independent scientific activity.

9. Final Provisions

24. This Policy enters into force from the moment of its approval by the Academic Council of the University.

25. Amendments and additions to this Policy shall be introduced in accordance with the procedure established by the internal regulatory documents of the University.

26. The Policy shall be published on the official website of the University and shall be publicly accessible.



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Science and Technology Park

Policy

Version: 1

10. Change Registration Sheet



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11. Introduction sheet