

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



16.2.6 Have a policy on supporting academic freedom (freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research)

UBT upholds academic freedom as a fundamental principle that drives its mission to advance knowledge, innovation, and education. UBT's Academic Freedom Policy ensures that faculty members, researchers, and students have the right to freely choose their areas of research and to express, publish, and teach ideas within their academic disciplines without fear of censorship or undue interference (see Evidence No. 1: Academic Freedom). This commitment fosters a culture of intellectual rigor, creativity, and critical thinking, benefiting both the academic community and society at large.

UBT empowers both senior and junior academics to independently shape their research agendas, secure funding, publish their work, attend conferences, and collaborate with national and international institutions, provided these activities align with UBT's values, policies, and Saudi Arabian laws (See evidence No. 2 University support for research). Faculty members are encouraged to engage in public discourse, share their findings, and address societal challenges through their expertise while clarifying personal opinions as distinct from UBT's institutional stance.

In addition, academics at all levels are free to design and deliver courses aligned with their expertise, develop innovative teaching methodologies, and integrate their research findings into their teaching. This approach ensures that students benefit from up-to-date knowledge and real-world applications, enhancing the relevance and impact of their learning experiences.

UBT provides robust support for junior academics through the Deanship of Scientific Research and academic researchers assigned to individual colleges. This ensures they have the resources and guidance needed to pursue their research and teaching goals, further reinforcing the university's commitment to nurturing academic growth and excellence.

While promoting academic freedom, UBT ensures that all teaching and research activities adhere to ethical guidelines, professional standards, and institutional values (see Evidence No. 3: Ethical Guidelines). Faculty and researchers are expected to promote respect, avoid offensive content, and operate within a safe, supportive, and fair academic environment.

By safeguarding academic freedom and maintaining high ethical standards, UBT fosters an environment where diverse perspectives can be explored, debated, and shared. This balance of freedom and responsibility reflects UBT's dedication to providing a collaborative and respectful academic community that supports the pursuit of knowledge in ways that align with institutional and societal values.