



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NOTRE DAME**  
A U S T R A L I A

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### Academic Freedom Policy Statement

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1. The University of Notre Dame Australia, established by an Act of the Parliament of Western Australia, is an institution which is part of the centuries old tradition of Catholic higher education. It is an integral part of the world-wide group of great Catholic universities, and follows academic freedom norms which are common in all such universities. As a Catholic university, Notre Dame follows the principles set out in Ex Corde Ecclesiae.
2. The objects for which the University is established are enshrined in s 5 of the Act: to provide university education within a context of Catholic faith and values; and to provide an excellent standard of teaching, scholarship and research, training for the professions, and pastoral care for its students. The University has a statutory duty to pursue those objects and all members of the University community carry an obligation in this regard.
3. Notre Dame welcomes people of all faiths and none at all into its community as students and staff. There are no religious tests for the admission of students or the employment of staff, other than those (eg for teachers of Catholic theology) who have a specific background requirement.
4. The University has formally adopted a statement on how it defines itself as a Catholic university and the key strategies and practical steps it adopts to achieve its objects as a Catholic university. [\*Notre Dame: A Catholic university\*](#)
5. The University hopes and anticipates that most of its students and staff will support and contribute to the context of Catholic faith and values within which it functions as an institution of higher learning. The core of this context is the person of Jesus: his life, death, resurrection, example and teachings, as set out in the New Testament.
6. The University must be a liberal and unfettered place where the basic values and beliefs of Christians are exposed, explained, researched, debated, freely challenged, and openly affirmed or rejected. No person within its community can or should be oppressed, vilified, demeaned or discriminated against because of their faith and values. All must be free and comfortable within the life of the University.
7. In speaking, writing or acting as a representative of or on behalf of the University, a staff member must act conscientiously and with full respect for Catholic faith and values.

8. The University expects from its staff and students conduct that is truthful, honourable, compassionate, fair, just and charitable. It hopes that all staff and students will conduct themselves within and beyond the institution in a manner which reflects these values and enhances the reputation of the University.
9. If a staff member or student acts in a manner clearly contrary to principles set out in this document, he or she may be subject to counselling by the Vice Chancellor. Any such action by the Vice Chancellor may be the subject of appeal to and reversal by the Trustees of the University.