

Higher Education Free Intellectual Inquiry Policy

Approved by: Chief Product & Quality Officer

Content Management Number: PROJ20/83

Approval Date: 7 December 2023

Review Date: 7 December 2026

1. Introduction

TAFE NSW Higher Education will deliver student centred programs that are informed by research and promote intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, and creative reasoning.

2. Purpose

This policy governs the learning environment and the commitment to free intellectual inquiry at TAFE NSW Higher Education.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled in TAFE NSW Higher Education programs and all TAFE NSW Higher Education academic staff.

4. Policy

TAFE NSW Higher Education will provide students and academic staff with a learning environment that:

- motivates and engenders inquiry and learning about our society, culture, the international environment, science, technology, and industry;
- encourages, facilitates, and supports positive analytical discourse and awareness; and
- promotes free intellectual inquiry.

TAFE NSW Higher Education will support this learning environment by:

- implementing a framework for academic integrity and honesty;
- promoting scholarly activity; and
- promoting investigation, critical inquiry and innovation through scholarship, teaching and partnerships with business, industry education and government.

5. Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Higher Education Academic Council	The Higher Education Academic Council is the approver of this policy.
Chief Product & Quality Officer	The Chief Product & Quality Officer is the owner of this policy.
Senior Manager Higher Education Quality	The Senior Manager Higher Education Quality is the contact for this policy.

Position	Responsibility
Dean of Higher Education	The Dean of Higher Education has overall responsibility for the effective administration and implementation of this policy.
Course Coordinators	Course Coordinators have local responsibility for the effective administration and implementation of this policy.
Regional management	Managers in each region have responsibility for ensuring academic staff have access to opportunities for scholarly activity.

6. Definitions

Definitions applying to this policy are listed in the associated TAFE NSW Higher Education procedures available on the [TAFE NSW internet](#).

7. Related documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following related documents:

- a. [TAFE NSW Higher Education Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- b. [TAFE NSW Higher Education Academic Integrity Procedure](#)
- c. [TAFE NSW Higher Education Scholarly Activity Policy](#)
- d. [TAFE NSW Higher Education Scholarly Practice Guidelines](#)

8. Contacts

Accountable Officer Chief Product & Quality Officer, TAFE NSW
 Responsible Officer Director Educational Quality, TAFE NSW

9. Document information and review

This policy document will be reviewed at least every three years.

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 Review Due: 7 DECEMBER 2026

Approval History

No	Effective	Approved by	Amendment
1	28 September 2010	TAFE NSW Higher Education Governing Council	Initial approval of policy statement.
2	5 November 2020	Head of Higher Education Standards	Policy statement updated into new Written Directions format. Minor content changes to reflect current version of related guideline.
3	7 December 2023	Chief Product & Quality Officer	Reviewed and updated policy statement.