



Policy Name	<i>Academic Freedom in Research</i>		
Policy #	RI 1.0	Category	Research & Innovation
Policy Owner	VP Academic, Neil Fassina	Effective Date	December 16, 2015
Policy Lead	AVP Research & Innovation, Chris Dambrowitz	Review Date	December 2018
Approved by	Executive Committee	Approval Date	December 16, 2015
Related Policies and Procedures	See Section 5		

1.0 Policy Statement

NAIT has the responsibility to nurture and maintain a culture of academic freedom throughout the Institute. The privilege of academic freedom is extended in the context of academic integrity and responsibility in the conduct of research, inquiry and other scholastic pursuits. Academic freedom in research offers faculty the opportunity and protection for reflective thought, open dialogue and responsible challenge to prevailing opinion in research and publication, which are crucial to the social vitality of the Institute, to the pursuit of truth and to the advancement of knowledge.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all NAIT faculty, staff and students that are engaged in research. This includes applied and basic research, publication or other dissemination of results, and the pursuit of scholarly activity.

3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
Academic Freedom in Research	Academic freedom in research is the freedom to conduct research, to publish the results of research, to produce and perform creative works, to responsibly challenge prevailing opinion and to participate in academic research bodies without interference, censure or retribution from the Institute or its management.
Academic Integrity	Academic integrity is a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect and Responsibility. ¹

¹ *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*, The Centre for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999

Academic Responsibility	Academic responsibility relates to adherence to respect for evidence, impartial reasoning and honesty in evaluation and reporting.
Applied Research	Applied research is a systematic investigation and discovery of knowledge that results in an immediate and identifiable impact on the potential commercial, environmental, or social value of a technology.
Basic Research	Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view. ²
Faculty	Faculty refers to any member of the NAIT Academic Staff Association
Research	Research is a systematic investigation to establish facts, principles or generalizable knowledge.

4.0 Guiding Principles

Academic freedom in research does not imply rights greater than those granted to all Canadian citizens under the laws of the Government of Canada.

As no freedom is absolute and no right is unlimited, those who claim the right to academic freedom in research must also accept the associated personal and professional responsibilities of respectfulness, integrity and honesty.

5.0 Other Related Documents

RI 2.0 Academic Integrity and Responsibility in Research

RI 3.0 Conflict of Commitment in Research

RI 4.0 Conflict of Interest in Research

RI 5.0 Intellectual Property in Research

RI 6.0 Applied Research Administration

RI 9.0 Recovery of Costs of Research

RI 10.0 Research Involving Human Subjects

RI 11.0 Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Conduct of Research

RI 12.0 Use of Animals in Teaching and Research

RI 13.0 Research Involving Bio-hazards

RI 14.0 Research Involving Radioactive Materials

Document History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action/ Change</i>
Dec 2015	Replaced original policy – revised content, new template
Feb/05/2007	Approval date of original policy. (IR 1.0)

² OECD Frascati Manual, Sixth edition, 2002, para. 64, page 30.