



Academic Freedom Statement (HE)

Version	1
Owner	Academic Board
Approving body	Board of Directors
Date approved	10 June 2026
Effective from	1 July 2026
Review frequency	Three years
Review date	1 July 2029

See Appendix A for version history

Academic Freedom Statement (HE)

Purpose

Boomsatsuma Education Ltd ('Boomsatsuma') recognises academic freedom as a fundamental principle of higher education and a core condition for the pursuit of knowledge, critical inquiry, and intellectual development. Academic freedom underpins the integrity of teaching, learning, and scholarship, and is essential to enabling staff and students to engage with ideas in an open and rigorous environment.

This Statement sets out Boomsatsuma's commitment to academic freedom in the context of its legal and regulatory responsibilities, including those set out in the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, the Equality Act 2010, and the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

Definition of Academic Freedom

Academic freedom refers to the freedom of academic staff, within their field of expertise and within the law, to teach, research, and engage in scholarly activity without undue interference. This includes the freedom to develop and deliver curriculum content, to engage in academic debate, and to disseminate research and ideas in appropriate academic contexts.

Academic freedom is exercised within the context of professional responsibility and does not extend beyond an individual's competence or role.

Provider Commitment

Boomsatsuma is committed to protecting and promoting academic freedom for all academic staff. This includes supporting and protecting the use of professional academic judgement in teaching, learning, assessment, and research, and ensuring

that staff are not disadvantaged for holding or expressing lawful academic views within their discipline.

Academic staff are entitled to explore and present ideas that may be controversial, challenging, or unpopular, provided this is done within the law and in accordance with provider policies and professional standards.

Relationship to Freedom of Speech

Academic freedom is closely related to freedom of speech but is distinct in scope. Freedom of speech concerns the lawful expression of ideas in public and institutional contexts, while academic freedom relates specifically to the independence of academic practice within teaching, research, and scholarly activity. Boomsatsuma recognises that both principles are essential to a vibrant academic environment and will seek to uphold them in a complementary and balanced way.

This Statement should be read alongside Boomsatsuma's Freedom of Speech Policy and Code of Practice [\[Link\]](#), and External Speaker Procedure (HE) [\[Add\]](#).

Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom carries with it a responsibility to uphold academic standards and professional integrity. Academic staff are expected to ensure that teaching and scholarship are grounded in appropriate evidence and disciplinary norms, and to respect the rights of students and colleagues to engage in academic debate.

Academic freedom does not provide justification for unlawful activity, discrimination, harassment, or the misuse of academic authority.

Limits and Legal Framework

Academic freedom is exercised within a framework of law and institutional responsibility. It may be subject to lawful limitations where necessary, including

compliance with equality and anti-discrimination law, safeguarding duties, health and safety requirements, and other relevant legal or regulatory obligations.

Where limitations are required, they will be applied in a manner that is lawful, necessary, and proportionate. Such limitations will not be applied to academic content solely on the basis that it is controversial or unpopular.

Academic Culture

Boomsatsuma is committed to fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity, respectful challenge, and critical inquiry, and values academic diversity across disciplines and methodologies.

Staff and students are expected to contribute to an environment where ideas can be examined rigorously and respectfully, including those that may be challenging or contested.

Review

This Statement will be reviewed periodically by the Academic Board to ensure it remains aligned with relevant legislation, regulatory expectations, and provider practice.

Appendix A – Version History

Version	Date	Changes
1	10 June 2026	New draft