

Research independence/ academic freedom policy

University academic staff are essential to research, and providing them with effective support is vital for creating an environment that promotes innovation and the advancement of knowledge. Support for academic staff in their research can come in various forms, including administrative, technical, financial, and developmental assistance. These policies are essential for fostering a scholarly environment that promotes free inquiry, open discussion, and the quest for knowledge.

As of my last update in 2023, specific policies regarding academic freedom or research independence at Lankaran State University (LSU) in Azerbaijan are increasing in English-language sources.

Here are some general points to consider when looking into academic freedom and research independence at LSU :

1. National Framework:

The Ministry of Education in Azerbaijan sets overarching policies for higher education institutions, which include general provisions for academic freedom.

2. Academic Freedom:

Academic freedom usually allows faculty members to conduct research without interference, express their views, and teach based on academic rigor and evidence.

3. Research Independence:

At Lankaran State University, researchers likely have the opportunity to choose their research topics.

4. University-Specific Policies:

Our University typically release annual reports, strategic plans, and other materials that outline their dedication to research, teaching, and academic freedom.

The students of LSU have industrial experience in Turkey([Link](#))

11 students of the 5th academic year of the "Veterinary Medicine" specialty of Lankaran State University (LDU) were sent to Qafqaz (Kars) University of Turkey for a period of 3 months for industrial experience. Currently, our students are divided into groups and participate in production experience in four different fields - veterinary surgery, artificial insemination, non-infectious internal diseases, obstetrics and gynecology.

In the production experience, students enrich their knowledge and experience in laboratory examination of various diseases, examination and treatment of non-infectious internal diseases, performing surgical operations on animals, artificial insemination and embryo transplantation, and at the same time in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

LSU is expanding its international relations.([Link](#))

A bilateral cooperation agreement in the academic field was signed between Lankaran State University and the University of Leon, Spain. According to the agreement, joint scientific researches, organization of conferences, seminars and other events, inter-university exchange of teachers and specialists within the framework of academic mobility are planned for both universities.

An agreement was signed between Lankaran State University and Romania's "Dunarea de Jos" Galati University within the Erasmus+KA1 program. The agreement will create important conditions for the strengthening of inter-university cooperation, student-professor/teacher and administrative staff exchange. For your information, we inform you that students who will participate in the exchange program will have the opportunity to earn a scholarship.

Erasmus+ KA171 project([Link](#))

On October 14-18, 2024, head of the Economics and Innovative Management Department of Lankaran State University, Assoc. Aytekin Efendiyeva visited Turkey's Kastamonu University as part of the Erasmus+ KA171 project and spoke at a scientific seminar on "Input-Output model with pollutants included".

At that event, which was attended by 17 different countries, the expansion of cooperation directions, teacher and student exchange, jointly implemented projects at the academic level were discussed.

LSU employees at the University of Leon in Spain([Link](#))

Hashim Akbarov, Head of the "Foreign Languages and Translation" Department of Lankaran State University (LDU), Nazrin Huseynli, Head of the University's Registration, Assessment and Additional Education Department, Javidan Aliyev, Head Teacher of the "Geography and its Teaching Methodology" Department, were on a business trip to the Kingdom of Spain. The trip was organized under the Erasmus+ KA171 project under the agreement signed with the University of Leon, Spain.

During the visit, LSU employees met with the head and staff of the International Relations Department of the University of Leon and were introduced to the foreign relations and international education programs of the higher educational institution.

Acquaintance with the activities of the courses created in Spanish, French, Italian and other foreign languages for foreign citizens from many countries of the world in the language center of the university was one of the memorable moments of the visit.

During the meeting with the responsible persons of the teaching organization department, the credit system, the teaching methodology of the subjects, the examination process and assessment mechanism, the concessions organized for students, etc. issues have been addressed. In the meeting held with the dean and teachers of the faculty of history, geography and foreign languages, issues of interest to the parties were discussed, suggestions and opinions were heard, and opinions were exchanged.