Academic Freedom Policy
Introduction
This policy is current as of 10 April 2015.

Scope
This policy is applicable to Kaplan Higher Education Pty Ltd, trading as Kaplan Professional Education (“Kaplan”).

Academic Freedom Principles
Kaplan will provide an environment that:
• preserves, defends and promotes the principles of academic freedom for staff and students
• encourages debate and expression of diverse opinions
• protects the right of staff and students to exercise academic freedom of expression and not be disadvantaged or subject to less favourable treatment by Kaplan for doing so.

Application of Policy
A key purpose for academic freedom is to service society’s need for independent criticism and advice, and for a continual flow of new ideas. Members of the academic community, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognise this fundamental responsibility.
Kaplan endorses the concept of academic freedom and supports academic staff in their right to conduct scholarly interpretation and application of theories and ideas. All members of Kaplan teaching staff respect and promote an open, supportive academic culture and value the contributions and academic freedoms of their colleagues. They show respect for the opinions and dignity of others. They accept their share of responsibilities for the governance of the institution and commit to participating actively in those activities and decisions appropriate to their role and consistent with the principles of Kaplan as described herein.
Academic freedom includes:
• respect for the rights of others, including their academic freedom
• freedom to speak in a professional manner in the workplace
• freedom from personal force and violence
• freedom from harassment.
All members of staff shall maintain and promote these policies within Kaplan. Such academic freedom does not include the teaching of doctrines or propagandizing causes inconsistent with the stated purpose of Kaplan.
Kaplan encourages students to achieve their individual, educational, and career goals and to promote their scholarly understanding of themselves and the world in which they live.
Kaplan staff members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students in the following ways:
• They hold before students the best scholarly standards of their discipline
• They demonstrate respect for students as individuals
• They adhere to their proper role as academic guides and counsellors
• They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct
• They ensure that their evaluations of students reflect their true merit
• They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between teacher and student
• They avoid even the appearance of exploitation of students for private advantage
• They protect students’ academic freedom.
Responsible Officer

The responsible officer for the implementation and relevant training of this policy is the Vice President, Academic.

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Approved by

VP, Academic on behalf of the Academic Board

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