

Policy on Local Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

Approved By: Board of Trustees / Lebanese French University

Effective Date: 15-11-2022

Review Cycle: Annual

Purpose

This policy establishes written procedures to systematically identify, classify, and meaningfully engage external local stakeholders—including local residents and representatives from civil society in key university decisions, ensuring their voices contribute to the institution's strategic direction and community impact.

I. Community Partnership and Local Stakeholder Engagement

The Lebanese French University (LFU) sees partnership with its local environment as important to its mission and relevance. We are committed to promote the meaningful and productive relationship with our surrounding community.

A. Formal Identification and Engagement Strategy

The University maintains established written procedures for the systematic identification and proactive engagement of external local stakeholders. These procedures are managed by the Office of External Relations and reviewed annually, including:

1. *Stakeholder Identification:* This process explicitly targets groups external to the University, including local residents of Kurdistan Region with specific focus to Erbil, community leaders, local government, and civil society organizations. Special attention is paid to representatives of vulnerable populations, such as refugee resettlement agencies and humanitarian groups operating in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
2. *Engagement Goal:* The primary goal is to establish a two-way flow of communication where stakeholders can inform university decisions and LFU can offer its resources for local benefit.



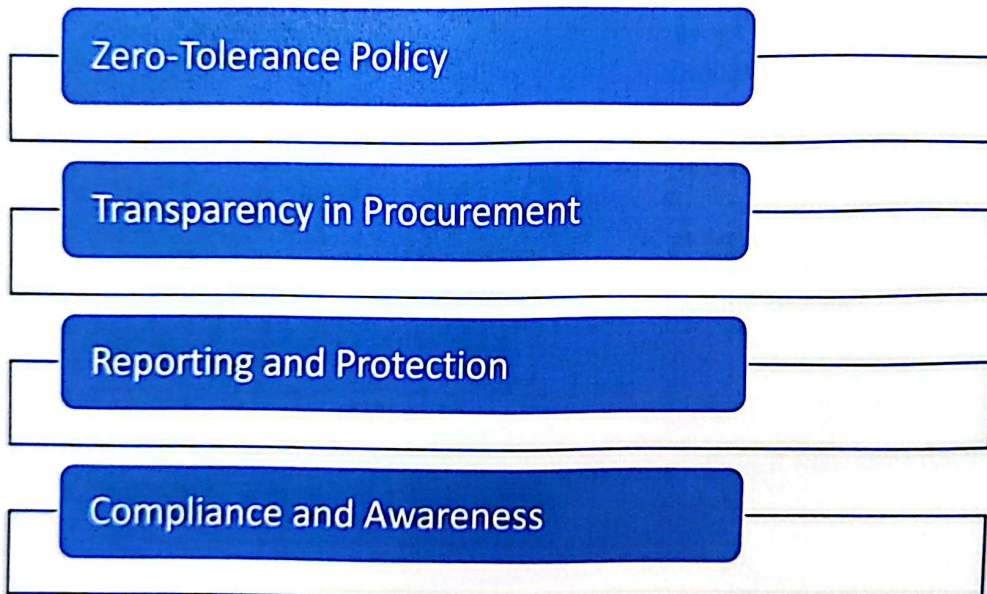
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II. Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commitment

Lebanese French University is keen to operating with the utmost integrity and ethical conduct. Our commitment is rooted in the belief that strong institutions must be free from organized crime, corruption, and bribery.

A. Published Principles on Corruption and Bribery

LFU's principles and commitments on organized crime, corruption, and bribery are formally published and integrated into all employee and contractor agreements.



The policy is aimed to combat organized crimes, corruption and bribery as explained below:

1. The University enforces a strict zero-tolerance stance against all acts of corruption, bribery (offering or accepting), fraud, and association with organized crime. This applies universally to all faculty, staff, students, and affiliated third parties.
2. All purchasing and contracting processes must be documented and transparent, adhering to published anti-corruption guidelines.
3. The university maintains a secure and confidential integrity communication channel for the reporting of suspected malfeasance. The University guarantees protection against retaliation for any individual who reports such activities in good faith.
4. Regular training and awareness seminars should be arranged for administration and finance staff.



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III. Policy on Academic Freedom

The freedom to conduct research and teach without undue political, commercial, or institutional interference is non-negotiable at LFU. This freedom is the bedrock of our intellectual mandate.

A. Scope of Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is explicitly defined as the freedom to choose areas of research, to conduct that research autonomously, and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research expertise, balanced by professional responsibility and ethical review.

Category	Research Freedom	Teaching Freedom
Senior Academics	Granted full autonomy in selecting research topics, methodologies, and publication outlets, subject only to LFU's standard ethical review processes.	Granted full discretion over course content, materials, and pedagogical methods, provided they meet the academic standards for the approved curriculum.
Junior Academics	Granted the same core freedoms as senior faculty. The University commits to providing supportive mentorship and resources to help navigate external funding and publication landscapes.	Granted the same core freedoms as senior faculty, with necessary guidance from the Department Chair to ensure alignment with defined program learning outcomes and quality assurance standards.

IV. Policy- and Lawmakers Outreach

The Lebanese French University is committed to being an informed voice and a resource for the Kurdistan Region's policy and legislative bodies.

A. Outreach, Education, and Capacity-Building

The university is mandated to provide direct, non-partisan educational and capacity-building resources to policy and lawmakers. The university develops and delivers targeted upskilling programs, workshops, and high-level briefings focused on critical areas of national concern, including economics, constitutional law, emerging technologies, migration and displacement issues, and climate change adaptation.

B. Collaboration in Government Research

LFU actively encourages and supports its faculty in undertaking policy-focused research projects in direct collaboration with relevant government departments and ministries.

