

Once upon a time...

...there was academic freedom. Although it had no specific shape or colour, it always consisted of the same elements: Integrity, diversity, transparency and expression.

Integrity protected researchers from misconduct. Transparency went over funding, methods and outcomes, so that research was not biased. Diversity ensured that different voices were heard and that everyone could participate in scientific and societal decision-making processes. Expression and academic freedom enabled freedom of teaching, the critical examination of existing positions and independent design of curricula.

Wherever academic freedom prevailed, research flourished and societies prospered.

Academic freedom must not become a fairy tale.

As doctoral students at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, we are convinced that no university is too small and no research topic too insignificant. Universities must remain places where research and teaching can be conducted independently. Places where new questions can be asked, debated controversially, critically examined and freely researched. Places where diversity, respect and academic integrity are put into practice. Science needs precisely this freedom to gain insights independently. Political, ideological or economic interests must not dictate scientific findings.

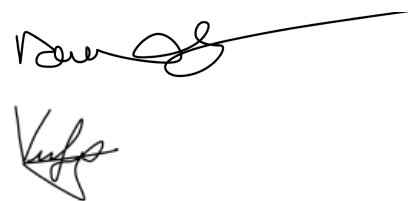
As doctoral students, we too have a responsibility to protect this academic culture. Our responsibility extends to both academia and the society in which it takes place.

Our stance is clear:

- We stand for freedom of research and teaching.
- We stand for academic integrity and transparency.
- We stand for diversity and respectful academic discourse.
- We stand for critical thinking and independent scholarship.
- We stand for democratic participation and an open university culture.
- We support the nationwide initiative 'Hochschulen zeigen Haltung'.

Because academia needs freedom. And freedom needs people who stand up for it.

Doctoral representatives of Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a long, flowing cursive script. The bottom signature is shorter and more compact, also in cursive.