Research Policy

Utkal University

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PREAMBLE

The vision of Utkal University (hereafter referred to as Utkal or University) is to be a Centre of excellence in higher education with a focus on innovative teaching, learning, research, consultancy, and extension activities for building a creative, enlightened and productive civil society. Research activities help to create and disseminate new avenues in knowledge, and promote innovation and these will motivate better learning and teaching among faculty members and students. It is also the foundation of knowledge that brings new energy, builds state-of-the-art facilities, promotes research publications, develops collaborations, and becomes part of an active community that shares the mission and vision.

Since its inception, scientific endeavors in Utkal have contributed substantially towards the accomplishment of its mandate. In the context of the globalization of knowledge and fast-changing scenario of research domains, inter and trans-disciplinary research have acquired greater relevance to address contemporary scientific and social issues.

In view of the above, there is a need to consolidate existing research practices to further strengthen the research capability of Utkal for the development of an inclusive research ecosystem that needs to be prioritized.

Therefore, this policy delivers a set of guidelines for the conduct of research to promote a holistic and inclusive research ecosystem at Utkal. The Director of R & D will ensure its implementation for executing research at Utkal at all levels. The policy will be updated from time to time as per the advice of research committees and in consultation with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Utkal University.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

This Research Policy outlines the general framework for the development, promotion, and conduct of research of high quality following the principle of research ethics, and consistent with the mission of Utkal. The primary objectives of this policy are as follows:

- Create a conducive environment for a better research ecosystem with action plans to support research activities in the University from time to time.

- Encourage research as an essential aspect of teaching-learning to inculcate research aptitude among the students

- To draw attention towards the priority of local/regional/National interest

- To establish and strengthen the Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) with high-end equipment and central computation facilities.

- To establish different Centres of excellence (CoEs) to promote interdisciplinary research and collaborations with National and International institutions

- To promote the publication of research findings in quality peer-reviewed, journals, books, and book chapters/monographs.

- Patent and/or commercialize innovative products and processes

- Highlight research achievements and activities to improve the University rankings at the National and International level.

- Strengthen the Research and development cell for strategic plans, management, and monitoring of research programmes and performance.

- Encourage the Department/schools and faculty members to generate funds through sponsored projects.

- Provide an ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Provide support for consultancy, collaboration, and outreach (Extension) activities to enhance the research culture.

- Integrate support for both fundamental and translational research for the generation of new knowledge and product.

- Promoting good practices and ensuring ethics in data acquisition, storage, and management and upholding the highest standard of ethical conduct in research.

- Appreciation / incentives to the researchers/ faculty members of the University for publishing articles in peer reviewed journals of international repute and books from reputed publishers; filing/publication of patents and development of products; receiving research grants and other research related achievements.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of the Research Policy is to create a vibrant atmosphere of research among faculty and inculcate research aptitude among the students. The policy shall serve as an overall framework within which research activities may be carried out.

It also aims to identify thrust areas of research having social relevance and thereby supplementing the Vision and mission of the University. The Research policy also emphasizes contribution towards society and to the nation at large.

This policy document is expected to promote both fundamental and translational research, Innovation and technology development to be undertaken for the next ten years.

The overall purpose of this policy is to:

Build/strengthen the core areas of research with good infrastructure for quality research output in arts, humanities, sciences, commerce/management, and other emerging academic disciplines.

Create more awareness among all the stakeholders on the importance of socially relevant and need-based research, and their integration with teaching and extension activities.

Promote innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership culture to enhance value addition to research.

Administer the policy following the highest level of integrity, ethical standards, and fairness with provision for performance-driven appreciation/recognition.

SCOPE

This Research Policy forms the basics of the research ethics of the University and applies to all stakeholders (Employees, students, and research scholars/associates of the University; chair professor, visiting researchers, adjunct faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and honorary appointee) who may be involved in any form of research and/or innovation activity.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CELL (R&D cell)

Research and Development Cell of the University is responsible for the promotion and development of research activities at Utkal, and is headed by Director, R & D. The Cell provides administrative support for the operation of research programs, sponsored research, consultancy, and related activities of the University. The Cell facilitates interaction with external agencies, both at National and International levels. The Cell acts as a liaison between the University and funding agency to undertake sponsored projects.

COMMITTEES TO MONITOR & PROMOTE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The University has constituted different committees to regulate and monitor the research activities under different categories.

(i) **University Research Committee:** The highest research body responsible for framing of policy, regulations, and monitoring for the Ph.D. programme of the University

(ii) **Research Advisory Committee:** It is the highest advisory body constituted with the inclusion of internal and external members from institutions and industries. The committee advises on prioritising the area of research, planning, and execution of different research programmes, and development need-based infrastructures on the campus.

(iii) **Research Monitoring Committee:** This committee is constituted including the senior faculty members and finance officer of the University to undertake routine monitoring of different research programme.

(iv) **Departmental Research Committee:** This committee is constituted including the faculty member of the respective/relevant department, a nominee of the Vice Chancellor, and external members. The primary function is to regulate and monitor the doctoral programme of the concerned subject.

(v) **Doctoral Advisory Committee for Ph.D. students:** This is a three-member committee to be constituted with a research supervisor/co-supervisor, Chairman, DRC and a nominee of the Vice Chancellor for each Ph.D. scholar and

RESEARCH CATEGORIES

Research at large in Utkal is carried out under three different categories:

(i) **University Sponsored Research:** University promotes the research at the individual faculty level, group of faculty members at the department, or inter-Department research. Every year University identifies and reviews research proposals to sanction funds to carry out research at the individual faculty level, school levels, product design and development groups (if any), etc. The details of these are provided in 15(A) funding head to promote research.

(ii) **Research Programmes:** The University offers doctoral programs to foster research. A separate regulation has been designed for the same

(iii) **Externally Funded Projects:** The University has set rules to carry out externally funded research and consultancy projects. The faculty as a Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) can write and get externally funded research and consultancy projects.

RESEARCH ETHICS

All research carried out shall comply with institutional, national, and international guidelines and principles. All the researchers of the University are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity, and honesty in their own research and responses to other activities.

For research involving human and non-human participants, necessary permission needs to be obtained from the Ethical Committee of the University (website address). Besides this, wherever required, the consent of specific ethical compliance should be obtained from the agencies concerned.

Researchers need to ensure that research processes and outcomes will not conflict with the interests of the University or the General well-being of Society. For collaborative research with other institutes, the researchers need to ensure that there is no conflict of Interest with Utkal University and collaborating partners

Due authorship, affiliation, acknowledgment to University/funding agencies need to be given in all forms of publications. For Intellectual Property from research in the University, formal permission from the R & D cell of Utkal University is to be taken.

The Research Ethics also covers broader issues such as avoidance or prevention of misconduct, and misuse of University resources besides publication ethics such as data forgery (manipulations and research fraud), plagiarism, simultaneous submission, duplicate publications, and conflict of interest, etc.

CONSULTANCY

- The university encourages faculty members to undertake consultancy research that facilitates the dissemination of knowledge and makes a direct impact on society as a part to fulfil the vision and mission of the University.

- Consultancy Services may be offered to Industries, organizations, service sectors, Government departments, and other National and International agencies in the areas of expertise available with the faculty of the University.

- Prior approval of the University authority is mandatory for taking any type of consultancy research and must be undertaken as per rules outlined in the consultancy policy of the University (Annexure-I).

PUBLICATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

- All research documents and publications should use the correct affiliation in the credit/address tag lines in the published versions as books, book chapters, technical reports, research papers, and articles.

- The faculty members and researchers will have the right to decide about the publication of their individual or collaborative findings. External sponsors (if any) have to be given due credits.

- While recognising the need for researcher to protect their own research interests and to seek protection for any intellectual property identified during the course of research, the University encourages the researchers to be as open as possible in discussing their work with scientific committee.

- Once the research findings have been published, the University expects researchers to make the relevant data and material available to other researchers, on request, provided that this is permitted under ethical approval and IPR policy.

GENERAL POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH

Requirement to Undertake Research:

The academic staff and research personnel including research scholars/RA/PDFs etc. are expected to undertake research to strengthen the research activities, greater visibility and recognition of the University at National/International levels, and also to contribute to society in various domains for achieving the objectives of the University. Nothing in this policy is to be construed which would prevent the Head of the Departments/Institute from allocating teaching and other responsibilities to academic staff.

Obligations of researchers:

Faculty members must be aware of their obligations to staff and students working as part of the research team and vice-versa. Each member of the research team (student, faculty, and other research staff) is responsible to know about the research problem, and relevant health and safety procedures of that area of research, and for management of those procedures in all workplaces.

For sponsored projects, the guidelines of funding agencies should be followed in all activities including engagement of research staff and submission of utilization certificates, statements of expenditures, and project reports

To promote Academic transparency, each research staff has the right to know about the research sponsoring agency, their methodologies, and the salary or stipend status.

University Research support:

University provides seed grants to its faculty to enable the researcher to carry out preliminary work which could be utilized for attracting extramural research funds or for specific works leading to quality publications/patents/ products. The seed grant is provided as per the availability of funds and the quality of the work.

The University may also provide fellowships to research scholars under various schemes.

The University will consider the publication grant to researchers to promote publication in high-impact journals. There is provision of fundings to meet Article Processing Charges in high-impact journals.

Travel grants as per the availability of funds will be provided to students and faculty for the presentation of papers, resource persons, and chairing the session at national/international conferences. Leave as applicable will be granted for such participation will be granted.

All types of University research support will be provided on the basis of the recommendation of the appropriate committee and subject to the availability of funds and cannot be taken as a right of researchers.

The University establishes Research centres/schools to uplift the research capacity of the University, focussing on areas where there is a scope for the betterment of the society/ any upcoming discipline of contemporary relevance.

Extramural funding:

UU encourages staff to attract research grants from external funding agencies (SERB, DBT, DST, ICSSR, UGC, CSIR, and others) both at individual and department levels. Any researcher fulfilling the eligibility criteria of funding agencies is free to apply proposals for external funding. Intra/inter-department collaborations or external collaborations, wherever required, may be taken. All types of research proposals must be routed through the respective Head of the department; Chairperson, P.G. Council; Director, R & D, and Registrar, Utkal University for onward transmission to the funding agencies. Departments, as per their eligibility, are also encouraged to apply to funding agencies (DST, DBT, ICSSR, UGC, etc.) for departmental infrastructural and research grant.

Publications of results:

UU encourages to publish the research results in good quality journals indexed in Scopus/ Web of Science/ PubMed or UGC-approved journals. Author(s) may decide on the journals depending on the quality of the work. A copy of the publication (soft/hard) must be submitted to the IQAC cell for the record. In all publications, the publication ethics including ethics of authorship (authorship as per contribution toward the research work), ethical approval as per requirement (if any), plagiarism, research misconduct (Data manipulation, research fraud), simultaneous submission, duplicate publication, conflict of interest), must be followed.

Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

The University establishes several Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under RUSA 2.0 and Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence and Equity (OHEPEE) to promote interdisciplinary research in focused areas and raise the research profile of the University. They serve as vehicles for engaging with other Research institutions and industries and facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary relationships.

Intellectual property Rights (IPR)

Utkal University encourages, facilitates, promotes, and safeguards scientific investigations and research in the form of Intellectual property Rights (IPR). The IPR

cell of the University promotes the patenting culture, helps in filling the patent, and makes provisions for meeting all the expenses related to the filing of patents. The guidelines framed by the IPR cell are applicable to all researchers for IPR.

Collaborations/MoUs

Utkal University encourages faculty members for collaborations/MoUs with other institutions (National/International) for undertaking research of mutual interest, joint projects, and student and faculty exchange. In all MoUs with other institutions or Industries, adherence to the objective and values of Utkal must be ensured.

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