ABHILASHI UNIVERSITY
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RESEARCH POLICY

BACKGROUND OF ABHILASHI UNIVERSITY

Abhilashi University is located at Chail - Chowk area of district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh. The University has beautiful campus surrounded by lush green fields, pine and oak forests thus becomes an ideal place for study in a neat and clean, health-oriented environment. The Abhilashi University offers Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate, Graduate, Post-graduate and Doctoral level courses in the fields of Agriculture, Pharmacy, BAMS, Engineering, Zoology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Veterinary, B.A. B.Ed. Integrated course, M.A. Education and Art & Crafts.

The main objectives of the Abhilashi University are to provide high quality education and globally accredited academic and research programmes in all disciplines. Social justice and sustainable economic development is the key theme on which the University works.

AIM OF RESEARCH POLICY

Research is original, independent investigation undertaken to contribute the knowledge and understanding, in the case of some disciplines, cultural innovation or aesthetic refinement. This may be achieved through various forms of dissemination, but not limited to publication, manufacture, construction, public presentation, or provision of confidential reports.

The present research policy aims to help Abhilashi University to develop an encouraging ecosystem for promotion of excellence in research and innovation for faculty members, research scholars and students and thus contributes to societal upliftment. It also provides an overarching framework for the development and implementation of all research management. The policy will be implemented by the Dean (Academics), Abhilashi University.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

All the faculties of Abhilashi University have adopted a research driven model which will help in generation of exceptionally skilled human capital.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of policy are as follows:

i)   Promotion of research and innovation.
ii) Incentives for Research projects, publications and research related activities.
iii) To incentivize the enhancement of intellectual capital (Patents and IPR)
iv) Research awards to the achievers.
v)   To facilitate national and international research collaborations and partnerships.
vi) Financial assistance for pursuing Masters and Doctorate.
vii) Financial assistance for attending National and International Conferences and Faculty Development programmes
viii) Institutional and Research Facilities
ix) To ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research.

I. Promotion of research and innovation

- The Abhilashi University grants freedom to its researchers and faculty to choose their own topics of research and it is highly desirable to make research socially relevant. Although, faculty and students can choose their topic of research, considering the need of the university to be well-known in specific areas of interest to the region/state, they will be counselled to undertake research activities in the following thematic areas such as Agriculture, Ayurveda, Basic Science, Business Management, Engineering, Pharmacy, etc.

II. Incentives for Research projects, publications and research related activities.

- To initiate research activities, University provides incentives in the form of financial reward and promotion as an integral part of the research policy of the University. It will be announced from time to time.

- The university faculty members are encouraged to submit research proposals to generate funding. Researchers can submit a research project to any government or non-government agency. Every research proposal has to be submitted for AU's approval through the Directorate of Research which will maintain an up-to-date record of all submitted as well as sanctioned research projects. **The final report of project completion will be submitted by Principle Investigator on the stipulated time period. Failing which he/she will be debarred for the funds from university for next two years.** The University may monitor the progress, maintain its accounts and submit the utilization certificate in time to the funding agency for all funded research projects. University encourages students and faculty members to report findings from a research project either as a publication or patent.

- Faculty members must publish their research findings in refereed national and international journals. In order to improve the quality of research publications, University shall provide incentive for all such publications that appear in UGC Care list/ ICAR NAAS ratings (More than 4), SCOPUS (Elsevier) and/or Web of Knowledge (Clarivate Analytics) indexed journals. It is expected that each faculty will publish at least one paper in a year and submit reprints of the articles to Dean (Academic). The output of students' research will be published as dissertation, thesis, research reports and research/review papers.

III. To incentivize the enhancement of intellectual capital (Patents and IPR)

- The University shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time. The applications related to research output in the form of innovation, creativity and filing patents will have to be submitted to AU's Intellectual Property Assessment Committee for a scrutiny. The University encourages its research community to file for patents arising out of their work for which a separate statute is already available (currently SA-39). Expenses for filing patent, sharing of revenue in case a patent is commercialized shall be done as per statutory provisions.

IV. Research Awards to the achievers

- Research awards shall be presented to the achievers every year. The institute recognizes the research carried out by its faculty members and research students by granting "Research Awards" for publishing papers, contribution to h-index of the university through citations, funded projects, and patents. The awards are categorized as Research Excellence (A++), Research Appreciation Award (A+, A, B++ and B+) and Research Impact Award (Citations).

Benefits and research awards

S.No.	Category	Approved by	Monetary benefits and Awards for individuals
1	Research project	University Research Committee/ AU Council	Rs. 1,00,000 (50,000 -1,00,000 depending on the cost/grant of the project)

2	Books / Chapters in International publication	ISBN	Rs. 10,000
	Books / Chapters in National publication	ISBN	Rs. 5,000
3	Research Publications (Scopus/ Web Of Science/ PubMed/ UGC Care Listed /Naas Rated Journals)		Upto Rs. 10,000 in a single academic year
4	Annual Best Teacher and researcher awards		Certificate, medal and a suitably awarded cash prize
5	Patents		Upto 10,000 for non commercial patents and a proper share for commercial patent as per university by laws.

V. National and international research collaborations and partnerships

- University encourages its faculty members to conduct collaborative research with their peers from reputed national and international Universities and Institutions. AU encourages its faculty to apply for research projects from international, national funding agencies apart from local bodies, industries and other funding sources for research projects. The University may also sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with prominent Universities and Research Institutions, for conducting joint research in the areas of common interest. In accordance with the UGC norms, high standard research output is one of the main criteria for the recruitment and promotion of faculty.

VI. Financial assistance for pursuing M.Sc. and Ph.D.

- The Fellowship is open only to candidates opting the masters and doctorate programme of Abhilashi University. All candidates applying for this fellowship have to appear for an interview conducted by the School/ department concerned. Those who qualify in the interview will be offered a fellowship of Rs 5,000 -10,000 per month for a period of 3 years for Ph.D. Scholars and for PG students Rs. 2,000- 5,000 per month for a period of 2 years. Students with a valid score will get an additional stipend of Rs.5,000 and Rs.2,000- 5,000 per semester for Ph.D. and masters students, respectively. The attendance of the students involved in fellowship programme should not be less than 75% in any circumstances and no reappears in examinations in any semester or year.
- The eligible Faculty are encouraged to guide Ph.D. research scholars in accordance with Ph.D. Regulation of AU. According to Ph.D. Regulations of the University, Professors and Associate professors are automatically recognized as Ph.D. guides, whereas the eligible assistant professors with prescribed years of experience, Ph.D. degree and required publication are also recognized to supervise Ph.D. scholars as well as M.Sc. students.

VII. Financial assistance for attending National and International Conferences and Faculty Development programmes

Faculty members are eligible to get financial assistance up to Rs.20, 000/- per annum for attending Conferences within India. Faculty members are eligible to get financial

assistance up to Rs.50, 000/- per annum for attending Conferences abroad. Financial Support Claim can be made once in two years by a faculty member. A faculty member can seek reimbursement only if he/she is a presenter/first author./ Invited speaker/orator, provided no other agency had given financial help for the same. It has been decided that all assistant professors will do a FDP program and examination fee will be refunded after producing certificate of successful completion. For Workshops/Training, expenses can be reimbursed if it is conducted by a national Association/national Institute/Industry/University and is supported by recommendations of the Dean/ Head of the Department. The University will reimburse return ticket of bus (Delux/Volvo), train (AC III-tier) from the shortest route to attend the Conference/Seminar as a presenter in the India.

VIII. Institutional and Research facilities

- The researcher is permitted to use the infrastructural facilities like research equipments available within the University, with prior approval through proper channel. A letter of appreciation from the Dean and Dean (Academic) would be given to researcher for extraordinary research work.

IX. Research Ethics – general guidelines

- The University believes that the occurrence of research misconduct (fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in the reporting results of research) is a threat to the basic principles of research. The University shall put in place a mechanism for taking action on all allegations of misconduct, and shall ensure that the procedures for the inquiry, investigation and adjudication of any misconduct are well defined and just for all parties involved.

- Awareness is also created to faculty members by invited talks in ethics in research. Ethics in research is also taught for PhD research scholars as part of their course work, where ethics is an essential part of the course work.

General guidelines for research ethics includes:

- All faculty members are expected to adhere to core values like honesty, integrity and sincerity and conduct their research in such manner that the reliability and trust of the university should not be compromised or get affected.

- The research aims of any study should benefit both society and industry and should cause no social harm.

- Researchers should make sure that an appropriate research method is selected on the basis of informed professional expertise.

- Researchers should endeavor to ensure factual accuracy and avoid falsification, fabrication, distortion, suppression or misinterpretation of data. .

- Researchers should ensure that reporting and dissemination are carried out in a responsible manner.

- Researchers should ensure that methodology and findings are open for discussion and peer review.

- Researchers should ensure that any indebtedness to previous research as a source of knowledge, data, concepts and methodology should be fully acknowledged in all outputs.

- Due credit should be given to all the authors depending upon their contribution in the research work. If a student or a faculty/staff has worked in a project, and any publication of that project is published, then his/her name should be mentioned in the authorship in the acknowledgement section of the manuscript depending on the quantum of their contribution.

- Authorship order should be decided in the early stage of a work. All authors must read the completed papers and must be willing to take complete responsibility of the data, interpretations and conclusions presented in the paper.
- The most significant contributor will be the first author of the manuscript. For all papers coming out of Masters degree or a Ph.D. thesis, the first author should preferably be Masters or Ph.D. student and the corresponding author should be supervisor.
- The guidelines of the concerned journal should be followed for including name of all contributors in the paper.
- Students should publish their approved thesis or dissertation work with the consent of the supervisor, unless otherwise stipulated by the university.
- All potentially patentable inventions shall be disclosed to the university.
- All faculty/staff members shall specify affiliation/association with the university in all their research activities.
- Plagiarism check is another important focus that the university insists for. All the Ph.D. theses before submission must be checked by plagiarism and certificate to be submitted with signatures of both research scholar and the concerned research guide. Plagiarism software has been provided to the entire faculty for checking their research articles, research proposals and research project reports besides using plagiarism check to regulate the student assignments.
- University encourages various departments to conduct workshops in research methodology where ethics in research is an integral part of the workshops.

Organisation of Research Activities

- To promote research activities, university has established **Research Organisation Structure** that deals with all research projects, conferences, collaborations and establishing networking with other institutes in India and outside India. AU has created the post of Dean (Academic), so as to smoothen and quicken the process of administrative issues related to research.

- Research Organisation Structure includes Research Policy Group (RPG) headed by the Vice Chancellor with the Dean (Academic) as the Member Secretary. The Research Policy Group will decide policy guide lines and themes for the research at the University. It will meet twice in a year.

- The Research Advisory Group (RAG) comprising President (AU), Vice-President (AU), experts from government, industry, civil society and academia will advise the Research Council about the desired direction and scope of research at AU. The RAG will be chaired by the President (AU). Dean (Academic) will be the Member Secretary. RAG will meet once a year.

- To operationalise the research activities at department and faculty level, there will be a Research Council (RC) comprising Dean (Engineering), Dean (Management), Dean (TPC) and Dean (Academic). Dean (Academic) will be the Chairperson of the Research Committee. The Research Council will meet at least once in three months, facilitate the research activities, monitor progress and ensure timely publication. Every department head or a designated faculty from the department will have single point responsibility for all research related activities of their department and he/she will report to the Dean (Academic), through respective heads of the department.

- There will be a Research Coordination Committee (RCC) comprising Dean (Academic), Coordinator (Doctoral Research) and Coordinator (Graduate Research). Dean (Academic) will be the Chairperson of this Committee. She/he will be responsible for research process

standardisation, quality assurance, progress monitoring and publication. RCC will meet once in every month.

- In partial fulfilment of the academic programs, research activities will be taken up by the students at doctoral, masters and graduate level. Similarly faculty also undertakes research in its area of interest. The Research Coordination Committee will ensure that the faculty's and students' research activities are standardised, reasonable quality is assured and the output of the research meets the direction recommended by the Research Council. Accordingly, it will be responsible for enhancing research capacity of faculty and students, developing style manual, facilitating linkage with outside institutions and supporting in-house and outside publication. The Research Coordination Committee will create an enabling research environment in the university through weekly seminar series, symposiums, etc. It will network with researchers and institutions for strengthening research activities.

Director Research 17-07-2020
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