



Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik (M.S) 422 222

Research & Development Policy

Introduction

The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) recognizes the importance of research and development (R&D) in fostering academic excellence and innovation. This policy outlines the framework for promoting, supporting, and managing research activities within the university, drawing inspiration from leading global institutions like Stanford University, Harvard University, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and other top universities worldwide.

Objectives

1. Promote Research Excellence:

- Encourage high-quality, innovative research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge and addresses societal challenges.
- Establish benchmarks and metrics to assess research quality and impact.

2. Foster Interdisciplinary Collaboration:

- Facilitate collaborative research across different disciplines to solve complex problems.
- Create platforms and opportunities for interdisciplinary research teams to form and collaborate.

3. Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

- Promote the commercialization of research outcomes and support the creation of startups and spin-offs.
- Provide resources and mentorship to researchers interested in translating their work into marketable products or services.

4. Enhance Research Capacity:

- Develop the infrastructure and resources necessary to support cutting-edge research.
- Offer training and development programs to enhance the skills and capabilities of researchers.

5. Ensure Ethical Standards:

- Uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethics in all research activities.
- Implement rigorous ethical review processes to ensure compliance with international standards.

6. Facilitate Knowledge Dissemination:

- Encourage the dissemination of research findings through publications, conferences, and public engagement.
- Support open access initiatives to make research outputs widely available.

Policy Framework

1. Research Governance

1.1 University Research Council (URC)

University Research Council (URC) is an apex body that provides guidance and oversight for research activities at University level to improve the quality of research, offer strategic planning, and ensures ethical research practices also reviews research proposals, allocates resources, and monitors the progress and to take impact of research.

1.2 Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

“Research Advisory Committee (RAC)” is a committee who monitors and facilitates research within the school/department, evaluate research proposals, and provide feedback on research design and methodology and periodically review the progress of research scholars. RAC is comprised of Director of the Concern School / Departments, senior faculty members, researchers, and external experts.

Research Advisory Committee (RAC); for each School, namely,

- 1) School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2) School of Commerce and Management
- 3) School of Education
- 4) School of Continuing Education
- 5) School of Digital Education
- 6) School of Sciences
- 7) School of Computer Science
- 8) School of Health Science
- 9) School of Vocational Education and Skill Development
- 10) School of Rural Development and Entrepreneurship
- 11) School of Multidisciplinary Studies.

1.3 Department Research Committee (DRC)

Department Research Committee (DRC) is a committee who monitors and facilitates Ph. D. admission process by scrutinizing the applications, Interviews constituted by each school for smooth functioning of admission process to Ph. D. programme.

2. Funding and Support

- ❖ Internal Funding:
 - Provide competitive internal grants and fellowships to support innovative research projects.
 - Establish seed funding programs to encourage early-stage research.
- ❖ External Grants:
 - Encourage faculty to apply for external funding from national and international agencies.
 - Offer support through the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) to assist with grant writing, administration, and compliance.
- ❖ Office of Sponsored Research (OSR):
 - Set up an OSR to manage external funding applications, contract negotiations, and financial reporting.
 - Provide resources and training on grant application processes.

3. Infrastructure and Resources

- ❖ Research Facilities:
 - Develop state-of-the-art laboratories, research centers, and libraries.
 - Ensure access to advanced research tools, software, and equipment.
- ❖ Central Repository:
 - Create a central repository for research data and publications, ensuring open access and compliance with data management policies.
 - Implement data management plans and training for researchers on data stewardship.

4. Collaborative Research

- ❖ Academic Partnerships:
 - Establish partnerships with leading academic institutions globally.
 - Facilitate joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and collaborative publications.
- ❖ Industry Collaboration:
 - Promote partnerships with industry to translate research into practical applications.
 - Set up industry liaison offices to identify collaboration opportunities and manage partnerships.
- ❖ Interdisciplinary Research Centers:
 - Create research centers focused on addressing complex, multidisciplinary challenges.
 - Support collaborative research through seed funding, shared facilities, and administrative support.

5. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- ❖ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center:
 - Establish a center dedicated to supporting the commercialization of research outputs.
 - Provide incubator and accelerator programs to nurture startups and spin-offs.
- ❖ Training and Mentorship:
 - Offer training programs on entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and technology transfer.
 - Provide mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs and industry experts.
- ❖ Startup Support:
 - Facilitate access to venture capital, angel investors, and grant funding for startups.
 - Support startup teams with office space, legal advice, and business development services.

6. Ethical Standards and Integrity

- ❖ Code of Conduct:
 - Develop a comprehensive Code of Conduct for research, outlining ethical standards and responsibilities.
 - Ensure all researchers are trained in ethical conduct and comply with the code.
- ❖ Institutional Review Board (IRB):
 - Establish an IRB to review and approve research involving human subjects.
 - Ensure compliance with ethical standards in animal research through an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- ❖ Responsible Conduct of Research:

- Implement policies for managing conflicts of interest, ensuring data integrity, and promoting responsible publication practices.
- Provide training and resources on responsible conduct of research.

7. Capacity Building and Development

❖ Professional Development Programs:

- Offer workshops and training on research methodologies, grant writing, and academic writing.
- Provide opportunities for researchers to attend national and international conferences.

❖ Sabbatical Leave and Fellowships:

- Support faculty in pursuing significant research projects through sabbatical leave and fellowships.
- Encourage collaborations with leading researchers and institutions during sabbatical periods.

❖ Student Involvement:

- Promote undergraduate and graduate research programs to engage students in research.
- Offer research assistantships, internships, and project opportunities to students.

8. Knowledge Dissemination and Public Engagement

❖ Publications and Conferences:

- Support faculty and students in publishing their research in high impact journals.
- Encourage participation in national and international conferences to present research findings.

❖ Seminars and Public Lectures:

- Organize regular seminars, symposia, and public lectures to disseminate research findings.
- Engage with the public through outreach programs, workshops, and community partnerships.

❖ Community Engagement:

- Ensure research addresses societal needs and contributes to the community.
- Develop outreach programs to involve the community in research initiatives and disseminate findings.

Implementation and Review

The Research and Development Council (RDC) will be responsible for implementing this policy and monitoring its effectiveness. Regular reviews will be conducted to assess progress and make necessary adjustments. Feedback from stakeholders, including faculty, students, and external partners, will be considered to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with global best practices.



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Registrar

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