



## **ORIENTAL UNIVERSITY, INDORE**

### **Research Policy at a Glance**

Oriental university believes that synergy between teaching and research is the stronghold, rooted in the belief and efforts towards the creation of knowledge (by researching) and not just disseminating it (by teaching). The Oriental University's mission is to be at the forefront of the creation of new knowledge and new forms of creative expressions through setting the core research agenda of the programs ranging from basic and fundamental studies to applied and creative research.

### **Objectives**

This policy provides a broad framework to guide research and integrity of scholarly inquiry at the University. The objectives of policy are as follows:

- i) To ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research,
- ii) To promote research, innovation and intellectual capital,
- iii) To integrate teaching and research through translational and instructional research, and;
- iv) To incentivize the generation of intellectual capital.

### **We promote Research**

The University shall create conducive environment for research. Due to limited resources, the University may not support fully all research likely to be undertaken, but it shall allocate the space, facilities, partial funding, and other resources for research programmes based on the scholarly and educational merits of the proposed research. It shall also provide development opportunities to researchers for writing research proposals and reports, publications, patent filing, etc.

The University believes that researchers are free to choose the subject of their research, to seek support from any funding source for their research work, and to report their findings and conclusions. However, research shall be available for scrutiny to the University and constructive criticism of peers. Research techniques used by the researchers shall not violate established professional ethics, pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and other personal rights of human beings or to the infliction of injury or pain on animals.

### **Research at UG and PG Level**

Teaching and research are equally important in a university. On the establishment of the University, it was thought that to promote creativity among the undergraduate and post-graduate students, some research component in the curricula, especially in the final or pre-final year of the bachelors programme and final year in the master's programme, is necessary. Accordingly, in the pre-final final year of the bachelors programme the Minor Research Project and Major Research Project are inducted where the students under the guidance of the faculty work on the decided topic of the dissertation and submit the findings periodically. The final project is submitted to the institution and

also the viva is conducted. Similarly, in the postgraduate programme, research was emphasised emphatically and students were trained for robust research skills. The University shall further reinforce research training in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the future.

## **Doctoral Programme (Ph.D.)**

As per the Ordinance 10, the first step towards doctoral programmes were commenced in 2015 for research scholars. The University also thought that being a self-financed University it had limited resources for conducting research and also in the development of the rich infrastructure for conducting research in different fields; therefore, it has been decided for collaboration with different prominent National Institutions where they have requisite research infrastructures and also have expertise to guide the scholars in different areas.

The University Initially in 2015 offered Doctoral Research programme in the Faculty of Management, Pharmacy, then Engineering (ME, CSE, CS, EX, EC, and CE), Law, Education Pure Sciences and gradually other faculty will be included in the Doctoral Programme.

The University shall further boost doctoral research and earmark appropriate budget for research facilities in different institutions. It shall also recognise the worthy R&D organisations for doctoral research and build bridges with them. The University shall continue to encourage faculty and research scholars to get funding for attending International conferences from external agencies as a matching share so that the quality in research paper can be maintained. It shall urge research scholars to publish and patent their research work.

## **Major Research Projects**

The University plans to evolve a mechanism through which it shall monitor the progress of Major Research Projects, if funded by an external agency, maintain its accounts and submit the utilising certificate in time to the funding agency as per the requirement of the funding agency.

The University shall provide funding on its own to certain important Major Research Projects where the funding from the outside agency is not possible. It shall earmark appropriate budget for this purpose.

## **Minor Research Projects**

From the very beginning, the University encouraged young faculty to conduct research. Thus, it has developed a scheme for providing financial assistance to Minor Research Project. According to this scheme, a faculty member prepares Minor Research Project, which is submitted to a committee at Department/University level and on the recommendations of this committee the University gives financial assistance to the faculty concerned. To have the periodical assessment for all such research projects and with an aim to guide the researcher, the departmental or institutions level committee is constituted. It is also mandatory to send a quarterly progress report of such Minor Research Project to the University. For this purpose, every year the University earmarks financial budget under each institution.

The Minor Research Project Scheme helps young faculty think about research, prepare the proposal, conduct research and write a research report. It also assists them in preparing proposals for major research projects. The University shall continue to encourage young faculty to take up minor research projects and shall earmark appropriate budget for this purpose.

### **Collaborative Research Projects**

The University-Industry Interaction is the demand of the day. If we want to contribute to the society at large, the University has to closely work with industries and different organizations. Industries and business organizations are facing different kind of problems and many of them would like to have the help from the University with an aim to find the solutions to their problems. For that, the University has planned to have the following activities:

- (i) **Interdisciplinary Research:** The interdisciplinary research is a must nowadays. No department, institution, researcher or a scholar can address a research problem in which more than one discipline is involved and unless they get together and conduct interdisciplinary research no fruitful findings can be arrived at. Therefore, the University has decided to have exercise in interdisciplinary research activities for which the following steps will be taken:
  - a) Identify the different experts from concerned disciplines who can work together.
  - b) Identify the interdisciplinary area.
  - c) Study the requirement of the infrastructure to conduct the concerned interdisciplinary research.
  - d) Explore possibilities to find resources for such interdisciplinary research.
- (ii) **Industry Sponsored Research Project:** An organisation can sponsor a project and the experts of the institution concerned can conduct research on this project for which the financial support will come from the organization as per the need of proposal finalizing by under supervision of Vice-Chancellor. As a result, if any patent is registered, then there shall be a sharing of income coming out of the patent among the industry, researcher and University. This will lead to three kinds of benefit:
  - a) The industry will get solutions to its problem;
  - b) The researcher will get exposures to the concerned area of research; and,
  - c) The researcher, University and Industry can earn money and at the end, the society ultimately will benefit.

### **Training for Research and Publications**

Generally, faculties are eager to conduct research, but because of the lack of expertise to write a research proposal or having insufficient research skills, they are unable to channelize their efforts effectively. Hence, in many cases, a research proposal is rejected by a funding agency. Even for publication of papers because of the lack of knowledge about how to write a paper and under which format it should be submitted, sometimes the papers are not accepted. Therefore, the University shall organise rigorous training programmes for researchers in the identified areas.

## **Publication of Papers and Journals**

Publication of papers is critical for the effectiveness of the University. Faculty must publish continuously in quality journals. Therefore, the University plans to encourage the publication of papers by the faculty with a targeted aim. A faculty member shall be expected to publish a certain number of research papers in refereed journals at national and international levels. These journals shall be identified by respective institutes.

Each institution shall be encouraged to publish a quality journal and organise research conference, from time to time to boost research activities in the Institute and to contribute to the existing body of knowledge.

Research papers to be published in identified journals and to be presented at national and international conferences shall be scrutinised and guided by a committee of senior professors.

## **Patent and IPR**

The University would like to strengthen the research, leading to filing of patents, if any innovation is done, the University shall encourage the researchers and scholars to patent it. However, when a scholar files for a patent, a thorough scrutiny will be carried out and for that a mechanism is already evolved at three levels namely:

1. Department at the institution level
2. At the committee level, which has experts
3. At the University level committee where even a lawyer in the concerned field is associated

The Candidate/Scholar and University bear equally all expenditure for filing application for patent. If the patent is commercialized the sharing of earning is to be done between researcher and the University as per the guideline developed from time to time.

The University shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time.

## **Centre of Excellence**

The University would like to create an environment for each department and an institution where they work in a specific research area and be known as a specialist organisation. This will conduce to focus on specific research activities in the specialised areas. Through these efforts, the University shall promote a particular department or an institution as the Centre of Excellence in due course for a specialised thrust area.

## **Incentives for Outstanding Research**

The University would like to encourage quality research in different thrust areas. For this purpose, outstanding research contributions done by faculty, researcher, and research scholar shall be recognised. Therefore, the University shall prepare a scheme for providing incentive to researchers and scholars. The incentives are identified as under:

- a) Incentive in terms of awards/prizes.
- b) Incentive in terms of money.

- c) Incentive in terms of certificate or giving more weightage for the career advancement scheme, etc.
- d) Incentive in terms of more funding for the ongoing research.

## **Dean Research**

To promote, monitor and incentivise research, the University shall have an exclusive and dedicated Dean Research, led by a senior academician. The Dean Research shall take care of day-to-day monitoring of all above activities, generating ideas about the conduct of research in different areas, implementing the ideas, monitoring the activities and assessing the outcomes constantly and periodically including assigning supervisors/Guide to scholars of Doctoral Programme.

Therefore, the Dean Research shall be an essentially leader for any research endeavour. The Dean Research shall have the functions to disseminate the findings of research to the society and also to integrate the research with teaching.

## **Research Misconduct**

The University believes that the occurrence of misconduct is a threat to the basic principles of research. The University defines research misconduct, as any fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in the reporting of research results. Research misconduct does not include an honest error or differences of opinion, authorship disputes that do not involve plagiarism, and violations of other University policies (e.g., sexual harassment policy). Misconduct in research damages the integrity of the profession and undermines the credibility of scholars. It is also antithetical to the values the University strives to maintain and promote.

The University shall take seriously 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.

## **Review of the Policy**

The policy will be reviewed after a period of two years.

**Dean (Research)**

**Executive Director**

**Dean (Academics)**

**Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (I/C)**