

RESEARCH POLICY

1. Purpose and Objectives

The Research Policy of the Institution aims to establish a robust, ethical, and outcome-oriented research ecosystem in alignment with the vision of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU), national priorities, and the mandate of a Government of Kerala undertaking. The objectives are to:

- Promote a strong research culture among faculty, research scholars, and students.
 - Provide institutional support for the development of research infrastructure, resources, and funding mechanisms.
 - Establish a structured framework for research proposal development, execution, monitoring, and dissemination.
 - Encourage high-quality publications in reputed peer-reviewed journals and presentations in recognized conferences.
 - Facilitate interdisciplinary, industry-linked, and socially relevant research aligned with national missions (e.g., Digital India, Make in India, Sustainable Development Goals).
 - Promote innovation, intellectual property creation, technology transfer, and consultancy.
 - Ensure compliance with ethical standards, academic integrity, and anti-plagiarism norms.
 - Encourage gender-sensitive, inclusive, and socially impactful research.
 - Strengthen institutional visibility, rankings, accreditation outcomes (NAAC/NBA), and research performance indicators.
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2. Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All regular and adjunct faculty members, research scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and students (UG/PG).
 - All departments, research centers, laboratories, and institutional facilities.
 - Sponsored research, consultancy, and collaborative projects undertaken with industries, government agencies, academic institutions, and research organizations.
 - Research activities funded internally or externally, including seed funding, consultancy projects, and sponsored research.
 - Publications, patents, copyrights, technology transfer, and innovation outcomes arising from institutional research.
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3. Guidelines

A. Institutional Research Framework

1. The Research & Development Cell (R&D Cell) shall function under the supervision of the Principal, headed by a Dean – Research & Development, with departmental research coordinators.
2. The R&D Cell shall:
 - Formulate and implement the institutional research agenda.
 - Identify research thrust areas aligned with national and state priorities.
 - Facilitate proposal submission to funding agencies such as AICTE, DST, SERB, DRDO, ISRO, UGC, KSCSTE, and international bodies.
 - Monitor progress, ensure quality of outputs, and maintain a centralized database of research activities.
 - Organize training programs on research methodology, proposal writing, ethics, IPR, and publication practices.

B. Research Funding and Support

- Faculty members shall be encouraged and supported to apply for extramural research grants.
- The institution may provide internal seed funding based on availability and merit.
- The R&D Cell shall assist in proposal preparation, budgeting, compliance, and submission.
- Financial support may be extended for publication charges and conference participation, as per institutional norms.

C. Research Publications and Dissemination

- Faculty and students are encouraged to publish in Scopus/SCI/peer-reviewed journals and reputed conferences.
- All publications must adhere to academic integrity and plagiarism regulations.
- Institutional repositories shall be maintained for archiving publications and research outputs.
- Predatory journals and unethical publication practices shall be strictly avoided.

D. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- The Institutional IPR Cell shall manage invention disclosures, patent filing, copyrights, and technology transfer.
- Awareness programs on IPR, startups, and innovation shall be conducted periodically.
- Revenue generated from commercialization shall be shared among inventor(s), department, and institution as per approved policy norms.

E. Research Ethics and Integrity

1. All research activities shall comply with ethical standards and statutory guidelines.
2. Research involving human or animal subjects must obtain prior approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC).

3. Use of AI tools in research shall be transparently documented and must not compromise originality.

F. Collaboration and Consultancy

- The institution encourages MoUs and collaborations with industries, R&D organizations, and academic institutions.
- Faculty may undertake consultancy and sponsored research with prior institutional approval.
- Consultancy revenue sharing shall follow Government/LBS Centre norms (e.g., 60:40 between faculty and institution).

G. Student Research and Innovation

1. UG and PG students shall be encouraged to undertake research-oriented projects, internships, and innovation challenges.
2. Participation in national initiatives such as Smart India Hackathon shall be promoted.
3. High-quality student research outputs may be encouraged for publication or patent filing.

H. Monitoring and Review

1. The R&D Cell shall submit an Annual Research Report to the Principal.
 2. Periodic audits shall review funded projects, publications, and resource utilization.
 3. The policy shall be reviewed every three years or as required by statutory bodies.
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4. Penalties and Non-Compliance

A. Academic and Ethical Violations

- Plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, duplicate publication, or unethical research practices shall attract disciplinary action as per institutional and university regulations.
- Research outputs found to violate ethical or legal norms may be withdrawn, and associated benefits revoked.

B. Financial and Administrative Non-Compliance

- Misutilization of research funds or failure to comply with funding agency guidelines shall result in recovery of funds and reporting to the concerned authority.
- Failure to submit progress reports or final reports may disqualify the investigator from future funding.

C. Faculty and Student Accountability

- Faculty members failing to comply with approved research protocols or institutional guidelines may receive adverse remarks during academic audits.
- Students involved in unethical research practices may face penalties including cancellation of work, grade reduction, or disciplinary action.

