



Mahatma Gandhi University
Priyadarsini Hills P. O.
Kottayam, Kerala - 686560

(Re-accredited by NAAC with A Grade)

Research Policy

RESEARCH POLICY

Preamble

Higher educational institutions are primarily meant for the production and dissemination of knowledge. This can be meaningfully undertaken only by promoting its faculty and students to engage in active and useful research. Therefore, Mahatma Gandhi University deems it fit to encourage extensive research among its faculty and students and thereby contribute towards the development of our society, nation, and the entire humanity. The purpose of the Research Policy is to create a vibrant atmosphere among researchers at Mahatma Gandhi University. Also, this informs researchers and participants about the responsibilities of all those involved. This policy shall serve as an overall framework within which research activities may be effectively carried out.

Objectives

This policy document seeks to serve the following purposes:

- To make Mahatma Gandhi University an ideal place for motivated and talented researchers. The University seeks to recruit and retain researchers of high repute, distinction, and potential and thereby enhancing its global competitiveness.
- To inculcate inquisitive spirit, creative thought, and transformative approach across all domains of knowledge such as sciences, social sciences, and humanities by promoting an interdisciplinary approach and convergence of basic and applied research.
- To trigger the development of a scientific temper in the society through a variety of outreach activities.
- To foster resource mobilization and capacity building to facilitate the production and dissemination of new knowledge across all disciplines.
- To maintain standards of ethics in research input, process, and output.
- To foster academia-industry linkage by promoting the exchange of experts and scholars in such a way as to establish better R&D facilities with provision for benefit sharing.

Perspectives on Research

The University upholds the idea that researchers are free to choose the subject of their research, seek support from any funding source for their research work, and publish/report their findings and conclusions. It shall allocate the infrastructure facilities and other resources for the research program. However, the research process and findings shall be subjected to the scrutiny and constructive criticism of peers. It is

also held that 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. It shall provide opportunities to researchers for writing research proposals and reports, publications, patent filing, etc. However, the process of research will be governed by the UGC regulations and University guidelines.

Ethics in Research

The University admits that any unethical practice in the conduct of research is a threat to the basic principles of research. The University defines research ethics as avoidance of any fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in the reporting of research findings. Unethical practices in research damage the integrity of the profession and undermine the credibility of scholars. It is also antithetical to the values the university strives to maintain and promote. The core values of University in research are:

- Be honest in proposing, conducting, and reporting research. The researchers should strive to ensure the accuracy of research data and results and acknowledge the contributions of others.
- Comply with ethical and legal obligations as required by statutory and regulatory authorities, including seeking ethical review and approval for research as appropriate. The researchers should ensure that any research undertaken complies with any agreements, terms, and conditions relating to the project, and allows for proper governance and transparency.
- Ensure the safety, dignity, well-being, and privileges of those involved in research.
- Resolve conflicts of interest effectively in a transparent and democratic manner
- To comply with established research practices and standards of integrity.
- The researchers should take care to acknowledge the contributions of other scholars in reporting the findings of their study.
- Ensure that the researchers have the necessary skills and training for undertaking research.
- With due regard to subject disciplinary norms, the authorship of research output should be attributed only to a researcher who has made a significant intellectual, scholarly or practical contribution to that output and who is willing to take responsibility for the same.

Misconduct in Research

Misconduct in research means actual or attempted acts of fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or deception when proposing, conducting, or reporting results

of research, or deliberate, dangerous, reckless, or negligent deviations from accepted practices in carrying out research. It will be considered a failure to follow established protocols if it results in unreasonable risk or harm to humans, other vertebrates, or the environment. It also includes the intentional or reckless unauthorized use, disclosure, or removal of, or damage to, research-related property of another, including apparatus, materials, writings, data, hardware or software, or any other substances or devices used in or produced by the conduct of research.

However, it does not include honest error or honest differences in the design, execution, interpretation, or judgment in evaluating research methods or results, or misconduct unrelated to the research process. It also does not include poor quality of research.

The basis for reaching a conclusion that an individual is responsible for misconduct in research relies on a judgment that there was an intention to commit the misconduct in research and/or recklessness in the conduct of any aspect of research work.

Where allegations concern an intentional and/or reckless departure from accepted procedures in the conduct of research that may not fall directly within the terms detailed above, a judgment should be made as to whether the matter should be investigated under this procedure.

Plagiarism

'Plagiarism' is defined as the copying or paraphrasing of other people's work or ideas into your own work without proper acknowledgment. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed, or electronic form, is covered by this definition. The documents that candidates are required to provide to support their applications for graduate study, such as the statement of purpose, research proposal, and samples of written work, form the basis of an assessment of their academic abilities; it is essential that such documents are entirely the applicant's own work (unless clearly indicated otherwise) and are therefore free of plagiarism. Plagiarism is also a breach of academic integrity, and it is a principle of intellectual honesty that all members of the academic community should acknowledge their debt to the originators of the ideas, works, and the data which form the basis for their own work. Candidates should follow the University's guidance on plagiarism.

Relationship with existing policies

This Policy will operate in conjunction with other University policies such as:

- Policy on IPR
- Innovation and Business Policy
- IT Policy

- Policy on facilities to support research
- Infrastructure Augmentation policy
- Resource mobilization policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Quality Policy
- Laboratory Safety Policy
- Academic Policy
- Consultancy Policy
- Policy on Capability Enhancement
- Policy on student centric methods
- Policy on extension and outreach programs
- Policy on seed money for research
- Waste management policy
- Scholarship policy
- Gender policy
- Environment Policy
- Energy Usage policy
- Code of ethics and conduct
- Student support policy
- Green protocol policy
- Student redressal policy

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