

# Research Policy



**Sai Tirupati University**

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## **1. Preamble**

Sai Tirupati University (STU), Umarda, Udaipur, envisions becoming a premier institution that advances knowledge through high-quality, interdisciplinary, and socially impactful research. As a multidisciplinary university with a major emphasis on Medical, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health Sciences, and other professional courses, STU recognizes that research is a critical driver of academic excellence and societal development. This Research Policy aims to establish a comprehensive framework for research governance, support mechanisms, ethical compliance, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination. It is grounded in the principles of academic integrity, innovation, inclusivity, and accountability.

## **2. Vision and Mission of Research at STU**

### **Vision:**

To emerge as a center of excellence in research and innovation, generating transformative knowledge and technologies that contribute to human well-being, sustainable development, and national progress.

### **Mission:**

- To foster a research culture that is ethical, interdisciplinary, and outcome-oriented.
- To support faculty and student-led research through structured funding, mentorship, and infrastructure.
- To address critical challenges in healthcare, technology, society, and the environment through collaborative research.
- To strengthen the link between research, teaching, and societal impact.
- To enable commercialization of research outputs and contribute to evidence-based policy-making.

## **3. Objectives of the Research Policy**

This policy is formulated to achieve the following objectives:

- To institutionalize mechanisms for planning, funding, conducting, and monitoring research.
- To ensure compliance with ethical, regulatory, and quality standards in all research activities.
- To enhance internal research capabilities through infrastructural development and faculty development programs.
- To promote research collaborations with academic institutions, healthcare organizations, industries, and funding agencies at national and international levels.
- To incentivize publication in reputed journals, patent filing, and translation of research into innovations.

## **4. Scope and Applicability**

This policy applies to all academic and administrative departments, faculty members, research scholars, postgraduate and undergraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting researchers, and collaborators involved in research at STU. It encompasses all forms of research, including

basic, applied, clinical, translational, interdisciplinary, action-based, and consultancy research.

## **5. Research Governance Framework**

The governance of research at STU is structured to ensure coordination, transparency, and accountability at all levels. It comprises the following bodies:

**5.1 Research and Development Council (RDC):** The RDC is the apex research planning and monitoring body of the university, chaired by the Vice Chancellor. It includes the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), Deans of Schools, Directors of Research Centers, senior faculty members, and invited experts. The RDC is responsible for the formulation of research policies, approval of major projects, oversight of funded research, evaluation of research performance, and facilitation of interdisciplinary research programs.

**5.2 Institutional Research Ethics Committee:** In accordance with the ICMR guidelines, the university maintains a registered and independent Ethics Committee to review and approve all research involving human subjects, clinical trials, and biological materials. The IREC ensures that research adheres to ethical norms, human rights, privacy protections, and informed consent protocols.

**5.3 Departmental Research Committees (DRCs):** Each department or faculty shall constitute a DRC to encourage, evaluate, and monitor research proposals submitted by faculty and students. The DRC also plays a key role in mentoring new researchers, identifying funding opportunities, and recommending proposals for further approval by the RDC.

## **6. Research Planning and Proposal Submission**

All research activities must be preceded by a detailed proposal submitted to the respective DRC. The proposal shall include a clear statement of objectives, literature review, research methodology, expected outcomes, ethical considerations, budget estimates, and timeline. Proposals requiring ethical clearance shall be simultaneously forwarded to the IREC. Upon review and endorsement by the DRC, the proposals will be submitted to the RDC for final approval. In cases involving external funding, administrative approval and financial feasibility assessments will also be conducted.

## **7. Research Funding and Financial Assistance**

STU is committed to supporting research through both internal and external funding sources.

**7.1 Internal Funding:** The university allocates an annual budget to promote internal research initiatives. Faculty and students may apply for:

- Seed grants for exploratory and pilot studies.
- Minor and major research project funding.
- Financial assistance for attending national and international conferences.
- Support for publication in indexed journals.
- Funding for procurement of software, consumables, and minor equipment.

**7.2 External Funding:** The university encourages researchers to seek competitive funding from agencies such as ICMR, DST, DBT, CSIR, AICTE, ICSSR, WHO, UGC, and other national and international bodies. A dedicated Research Facilitation Cell under the Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) provides assistance in identifying funding calls, drafting proposals, submitting applications, and post-award project management.

## **8. Research Ethics and Academic Integrity**

STU upholds the highest standards of ethics and integrity in research. The university has adopted the following core principles:

- All research involving human participants, biological materials, or personal data must obtain prior approval from the IREC.
- Plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation are strictly prohibited.
- Plagiarism checks are mandatory for all theses, dissertations, and manuscripts submitted for publication.
- Researchers must ensure confidentiality, voluntary participation, and transparency in the informed consent process.
- Animal research shall conform to the CPCSEA guidelines and be approved by an Animal Ethics Committee (if applicable).

Any breach of ethical conduct will be investigated by the RDC, and appropriate disciplinary action will be initiated.

## **9. Intellectual Property Rights and Commercialization**

STU supports the creation, protection, and commercialization of intellectual property arising from research conducted at the university. Key provisions include:

- IP generated through university-funded or facilitated research shall be co-owned by the university and the inventor(s).
- The university shall assist in filing patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs through its IPR Cell.
- Commercialization of IP shall be encouraged through licensing, start-ups, and industry partnerships.
- Revenue generated through commercialization shall be shared with the inventors in a fair proportion (suggested model: 70% Inventor, 20% Department, 10% University).

## **10. Research Collaboration and Linkages**

The university actively promotes research collaborations and linkages with external institutions, hospitals, industries, and government organizations. Such partnerships enable access to resources, expertise, and opportunities for translational and interdisciplinary research. All MoUs and collaborative agreements shall be processed through the Office of International Affairs and approved by the RDC.

## **11.Capacity Building and Faculty Development**

To enhance research capabilities, the university shall conduct regular Faculty Development Programs (FDPs), workshops, seminars, and training sessions in areas such as:

- Research methodology and statistical tools
- Proposal and grant writing
- Ethics and good clinical practice
- Scientific writing and journal submission
- Patent filing and technology transfer

Young faculty and early-career researchers will be mentored through institutional and inter-institutional mentoring programs.

## **12.Student Research Engagement**

Research is an integral part of learning at STU. The university promotes undergraduate and postgraduate research through:

- Research internships and dissertation projects
- Student research fellowships and travel grants
- Research awards and competitions
- Mentored participation in conferences and publications

Departments shall also facilitate submission of student projects to reputed external research schemes such as ICMR STS, AICTE SPARK, and others.

## **13.Research Infrastructure and Resources**

STU shall continuously invest in developing advanced research infrastructure, including:

- Well-equipped laboratories and simulation centers
- Central research facilities with shared equipment
- Online databases, e-journals, and digital libraries
- Access to data analysis software, plagiarism detection tools, and reference managers

Departments shall submit proposals for new infrastructure based on need assessment and research plans.

## **14.Research Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

All ongoing research projects shall be subject to periodic monitoring by the DRC and RDC. Researchers are required to submit:

- Mid-term and final progress reports
- Statement of expenditures and utilization certificates for funded projects
- Reports of publications, patents, conference presentations, and other outcomes

The RDC shall prepare an Annual Research Performance Report summarizing achievements, challenges, and recommendations.

#### **15. Research Recognition and Incentives**

STU shall recognize outstanding research contributions through:

- Annual Research Awards for faculty, students, and interdisciplinary teams
- Financial incentives for publications in SCI/Scopus/Web of Science indexed journals
- Bonus marks/credits for research activities in academic evaluations
- Preferential consideration for faculty promotions and leadership roles

#### **16. Review and Amendment of Policy**

This Research Policy shall be reviewed every two years by the RDC. Amendments shall be proposed based on evolving national guidelines, institutional priorities, and stakeholder feedback. Final approval shall rest with the Academic Council and Governing Body.

#### **17. Conclusion**

Through this Research Policy, Sai Tirupati University reaffirms its commitment to fostering a vibrant, ethical, and globally competitive research environment. The university believes that impactful research is the cornerstone of academic excellence and societal advancement. By enabling faculty and students to pursue innovative, relevant, and high-quality research, STU aims to become a leading knowledge institution contributing to the nation and the world.

**Approved by:**

Vice Chancellor  
Sai Tirupati University, Umarda, Udaipur