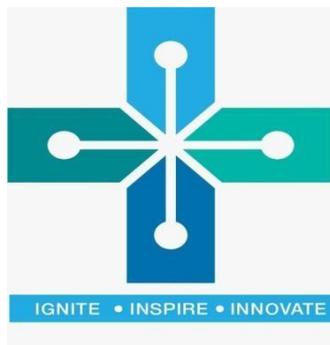


# INSTITUTE INNOVATION & STARTUP POLICY 2020



## **St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research**

Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956

NAAC Accredited and ISO 9001-2015 Certified

**Avadi, Chennai 600050.**

## Contents

	Page
1 Preamble	3
2 Vision of the Policy	3
3 Innovation Eco System	3
3.1 Centre for Innovation	4
3.2 Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC)	4
3.3 Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST)	5
3.4 SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs)	5
3.5 Entrepreneurship Development Cell	6
4 Innovation and Startup Policy	6
4.1 <i>Strategies and Governance</i>	6
4.2 <i>Startups Enabling Institutional Infrastructure</i>	7
4.3 <i>Nurturing Innovations and Startups</i>	7
4.4 <i>Product Ownership Rights for Technologies Developed at Institute</i>	8
4.5 <i>Organizational Capacity, Human Resources and Incentives</i>	9
4.6 <i>Creating Innovation Pipeline and Pathways for Entrepreneurs at Institute         Level</i>	10

**INSTITUTE INNOVATION & STARTUP POLICY 2020**  
**St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research**  
**Avadi, Chennai 600050.**

**1. Preamble**

As India aspires to become a 5 trillion dollar economy in the near future, there is need for high quality technical human resource, capable of doing cutting edge research and innovation, and high-tech entrepreneurship. The MHRD's (now MoE) Innovation Cell and AICTE have brought out the 'National Innovation and Startup Policy 2019' for students and faculty. It provides broad guidelines to encourage the faculty, staff and students to actively pursue the path of innovation and entrepreneurship.

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research, a deemed to be university, was established in 2008 with the approval of UGC and MHRD. The institution aims to impart high quality education and research to students through undergraduate, post graduate and research programmes to mould them for serving the society with integrity, commitment and involvement. It provides a robust innovation eco system with necessary platforms to develop innovation and entrepreneurship skills among students and students.

This policy document aims to outline the efforts that can be taken by the institute to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the students and faculty. It has been prepared in line with the National Innovation and Startup Policy 2019.

**2. Vision of the Policy**

To encourage Innovative and Entrepreneurial ideas among students and faculty by creating a vibrant and conducive Startup culture and innovation eco system in and around the institute through well conceived policy interventions and strategic investments, in order to create multiple economic hubs and contribute for self-reliant India.

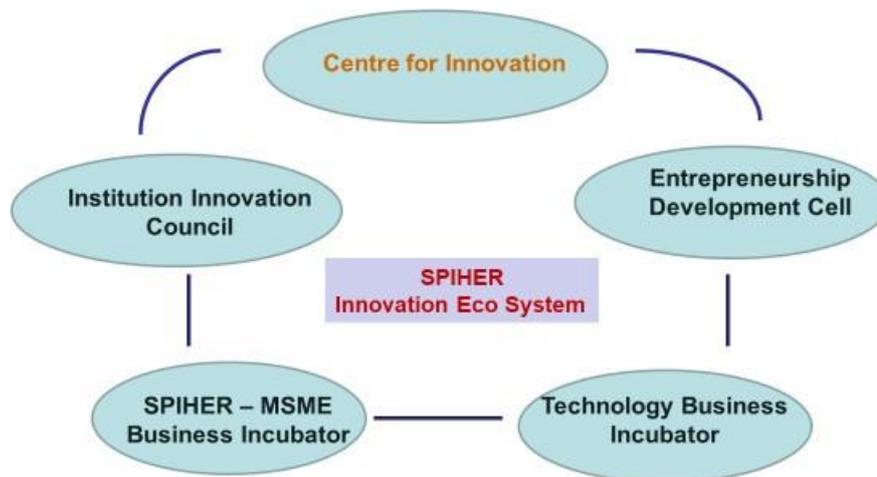
**3. Innovation Eco System**

*Innovation Eco System* of St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) acts as the driver of innovation. The main objective of the system is to promote creativity and innovation among students and faculty, and facilitate development of innovative systems, processes, products, technologies and services for the benefit of the society. It serves to connect all the stakeholders of innovation including UG and PG students, researchers, teachers, entrepreneurs, business development and other technical service providers, providers of skills training and professional development, and IPR support. The institute has established the following facilities as part of the Innovation Eco System. The ecosystem enables stakeholders to interact effectively to maximise the economic impact and potential of their research and innovation. It is dynamic and flexible, allowing new entrants to become part of the ecosystem with minimal entry barriers. The innovation eco system has contributed potentially for innovation performance of the institute.

The Innovation Eco System works through the following facilities.

- Centre for Innovation – promotes innovation policies and overall guidance.

- Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC) – promotional activities through various programmes including industry leaders.
- Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST) – Incubation of innovative ideas
- SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of MSME) - Incubation of innovative ideas for technology development for commercialisation, and promotion of startups.



**Fig.1 Innovation Eco System of SPIHER**

### **3.1 Centre for Innovation**

The Centre for Innovation was started in 2017 with the objective of motivating students and teachers on innovation and improvement of quality research and publications. Motivational lectures are arranged for this purpose. The following incentives are given every year.

- Incentive to faculty for best project with maximum grant.
- Incentive to faculty for high quality publication with maximum impact factor and citations
- Incentive for faculty filing patent by reimbursing cost of filing and publishing.
- Students’ Project Exhibition and award of certificates and cash prizes for best projects.

### **3.2 Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC)**

The Institution Innovation Council was started in 2018 at the initiative of the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India. The Council includes members from students, teachers, industry and Patent expert. A number of activities are conducted through this Council to motivate and promote creativity and innovation among students and teachers as given below.

- Webinars by Industry Leaders
- Workshops on IPR
- Workshops on entrepreneurship and innovation
- Hackathons for students
- Innovation challenge and business plan competition
- Field visit to incubation centre

The Council has been awarded maximum grading of 5 stars by MHRD IC for its performance during 2019-20. Four faculty have been trained as ambassadors in product design, product development, IPR and entrepreneurship. All these have helped and continue to promote innovation and ideas for technology development for commercialisation.

### **3.3 Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST)**

The Technology Business Incubator was started in 2009 with the approval of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, with a grant of Rs. 2.00 crores. Besides incubation activities, the incubator conducts several technical programmes like awareness camps, technology based entrepreneurship development programmes and Faculty development programmes every year with funding by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.

### **3.4 SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs)**

SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator was started in 2009 with the approval of the Ministry of Micro, Small and medium Enterprises, Government of India. The incubator promotes emerging technological and knowledge-based innovative ventures. The scheme was enlarged with provision for seed capital for startups and our incubator was approved under the new scheme in 2019. The activities of the incubator include

- Guidance for grant-in-aid for technology development.
- Guidance for seed capital for startup.
- Mentoring support.
- Technical guidance through mentor.
- R&D support, testing where required.
- Linking with other R&D labs, industry where required.
- Guidance for IPR.
- Guidance for technology transfer.
- Training programmes and skill development.

The incubator promotes ideas in the following technology domains.

- Manufacturing industry, Electronics & Communication, IoT
- Energy and Environment
- Construction
- Health care

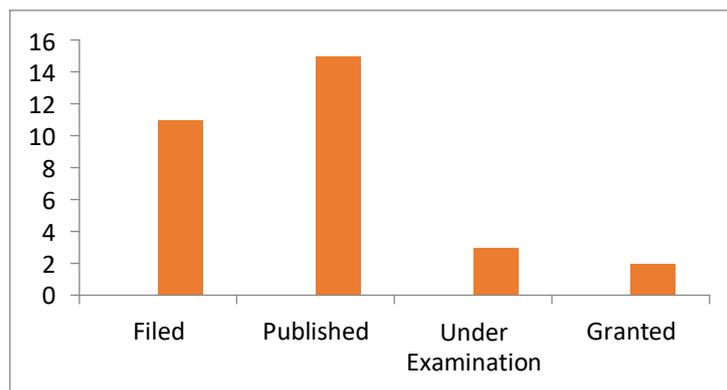
Ten technologies have so far been developed with suitable grant for commercialisation through SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator. Four patents have been filed. The non-invasive

device for measuring sugar level has won the first prize at the International Exhibition organised by AIEMA on Machine Tools during June 2018 at Chennai Trade Centre.

### 3.5 Entrepreneurship Development Cell

The Entrepreneurship Cell is responsible for inculcating entrepreneurship skills among students. Awareness programmes and faculty development programmes on entrepreneurship development are conducted for students and faculty. Events like e-bazaars are conducted in which students exhibit the innovative and business talents. The innovation eco system of the institute is also explained to the students and faculty. The Cell also provides mentoring in entrepreneurship including developing business plans and conducting market survey.

The innovation eco system has contributed potentially for innovation performance of the institute. Totally 31 patents have been filed till 2019-20 out of which two have been granted and the remaining are under various stages of process. Ten technologies have been successfully developed. Ten ideas have been applied for grant and seed capital under Ideas for New India 2020 of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.



Fig,2 Details of Patents

## 4 Innovation and Startup Policy

### 4.1 Strategies and Governance

- i) A senior faculty shall be nominated as Nodal Officer to coordinate with various stake holders for implementing the Policy.
- ii) There should be a Resource mobilisation plan of the institute for supporting pre-incubation, incubation infrastructure and facilities. This can be reviewed periodically.
- iii) Investment in the entrepreneurial activities should be a part of the institutional financial strategy. A minimum 1% fund of the total annual budget of the institution may be allocated for funding and supporting innovation and startups related activities through creation of separate 'Innovation fund'. The strategy should also involve raising funds from diverse sources.
- iv) For expediting the decision making, hierarchical barriers should be minimized.

- v) Importance of innovation and entrepreneurial agenda should be known across the institute and should be promoted and highlighted at institutional programs such as conferences, convocations, workshops, etc.
- vi) Product to market strategy for startups should be developed by the institute on case to case basis.
- vii) Institute should be the driving force in developing entrepreneurship culture in its vicinity (regional, social and community level). This shall include giving opportunity for regional startups, provision to extend facilities for outsiders and active involvement of the institute in defining strategic direction for local development.

#### ***4.2 Startups Enabling Institutional Infrastructure***

- i) The goal of the effort should be to link INNOVATION to ENTREPRISES to FINANCIAL SUCCESS.
- ii) The Pre-Incubation/Incubation facility should be accessible 24x7 to students, staff and faculty of all disciplines and departments across the institution.
- iii) The institute may offer mentoring and other relevant services through Pre-incubation/Incubation units in-return for fees, equity sharing and (or) zero payment basis.

#### ***4.3 Nurturing Innovations and Startups***

- i) The institute should offer access to pre-incubation & Incubation facility to start ups by students, staff and faculty for mutually acceptable time-frame.
- ii) The institute should allow licensing of IPR from institute to start up: Ideally students and faculty members intending to initiate a start up based on the technology developed or co-developed by them or the technology owned by the institute, should be allowed to take a license on the said technology on easy term, either in terms of equity in the venture and/ or license fees and/ or royalty to obviate the early stage financial burden.
- iii) Students entrepreneurs should be allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less than the minimum permissible percentage, with due permission from the institute.
- iv) The institute should allow the students to take a semester/year break (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) to work on their start ups and re-join academics to complete the course. Student entrepreneurs may earn academic credits for their efforts while creating an enterprise.
- v) In return of the services and facilities, the institute may take 2% to 9.5% equity/ stake in the startup/ company, based on brand used, faculty contribution, support provided and use of institute's IPR (a limit of 9.5% is suggested so that

institute has no legal liability arising out of startup. The institute should normally take much lower equity share, unless its full-time faculty/ staff have substantial shares).

#### **4.4 Product Ownership Rights for Technologies Developed at Institute**

- i) When institute facilities / funds are used substantially or when IPR is developed as a part of curriculum/ academic activity, IPR is to be jointly owned by inventors and the institute. Inventors and institute could together license the product / IPR to any commercial organisation, with inventors having the primary say. License fees could be either / or a mix of
  - Upfront fees or one-time technology transfer fees
  - Royalty as a percentage of sale-price
  - Shares in the company licensing the product
- ii) The institute shall support financially to meet the charges for filing and processing of patents.
- iii) Institute IPR cell or incubation center will be a coordinator and facilitator for providing services to faculty, staff and students. They will have no say on how the invention is carried out, how it is patented or how it is to be licensed.
- iv) Any dispute should be amicably resolved through a committee.
- v) Courses shall be introduced on entrepreneurship and startups at UG and PG levels in all programmes.
- vi) Interdisciplinary research and publication on startup and entrepreneurship should be promoted by the institute.

#### **4.5 Organizational Capacity, Human Resources and Incentives**

- i) Faculty should be periodically trained in entrepreneurship, skill development and startups. Some of the relevant faculty members with prior exposure and interest can be deputed for training to promote I&E.
- ii) Periodically external subject matter experts such as guest lecturers or alumni can be engaged for strategic advice and bringing in skills which are not available internally.
- iii) Suitable reward system for the staff may be introduced for entrepreneurial activities in the form of reduced teaching loads, awards, trainings, etc.

#### **4.6 Creating Innovation Pipeline and Pathways for Entrepreneurs at Institute Level**

The following mechanisms may be devised at institution level.

- i) Spreading awareness among students, faculty and staff about the value of entrepreneurship and its role in career development or employability should be a part of the institutional entrepreneurial agenda.
- ii) Students should be encouraged to develop entrepreneurial mindset through

experiential learning by exposing them to training in cognitive skills (e.g. design thinking, critical thinking, etc.), by inviting first generation local entrepreneurs or experts to address young minds. Initiatives like idea and innovation competitions, hackathons, workshops, bootcamps, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, mentoring by academic and industry personnel, throwing real life challenges, awards and recognition can be routinely organized.

- iii) Institute can have a data bank of alumni entrepreneurs who can be utilized for motivating and mentoring the students.
- iv) Institute can start annual 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award' to recognize outstanding ideas, successful enterprises and contributors for promoting innovation and enterprises ecosystem within the institute.

The policy may be reviewed every year and suitable amendments may be made where required.

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