



RESEARCH PROMOTION POLICY

A willed endeavour of Creating, Grooming, Proliferating and Sustaining a web of “Radiant Research Culture, ‘Resilient Innovation Eco-system’ and ‘Robust Entrepreneurial Mindset’ is foremost amongst the priorities of the Higher Education Policy of the St. Peter’s Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER). Reputation of any Higher Education institution depends vastly on the ‘intellectual scholarship and research productivity’, ‘creativity caliber and innovation outcome’, and ‘venture creation and entrepreneurship promotion’. These domains of conventional, compulsive and contemporary pursuits of the SPIHER can best happen, grow and fructify with / through an appropriate forward-looking **Research Promotion Policy**. The success of a Higher Education Institution in attaining its objectives is greatly contingent upon the alignment of faculty members and the relevant stakeholders with all the above domains and related pursuits of research initiatives, being undertaken at SPIHER. The Research Promotion Policy of the SPIHER aims to help its faculty members, research personnel and other stakeholders achieve the excellence in ‘Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship’ contributing to institutional and societal uplift.

1. Research Policy: Provisions and Guidelines

(a) *Undertaking Research:*

Faculty Members of St. Peter’s Institute of Higher Education and Research are expected to undertake Research, leading to quality publications in reputed journals with high impact factor and presentations in National / International Conferences / Seminars organized by reputed Institutions.



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St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research
(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
Avadi, Chennai-600 054



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(b) Participation in Research activity is mandatory for all faculty members:

- i. Research output will be considered as one of the criteria for faculty recruitment and promotion along with other academic responsibilities.
- ii. The quality of research output, especially research publications, may be assessed on the established yardsticks, such as Impact Factor and Citations.

(c) Research Administration:

- i. BoRS to function under the Vice-Chancellor is established to draft policy papers on research.
- ii. Research activity of each department is coordinated by the respective head.
- iii. Overall day-to-day administration of Research activities is coordinated by the Research and Development wing.

(d) Resources for Research support:

A separate 'Budget Head' for Research is created for the purpose of Earmarking, Generation and allocation resources for Research. This 'budget Head' for Research is in two parts.

- i. **Intramural Funds:** The Institute provides Intramural funding for projects, Conferences, Intellectual property activities and awards based on the quality and impact of Research.
- ii. **Extramural Funds:** Extramural Funds and consultancy funds from State, National and International funding bodies, Government / private (corporate / NGO / Trust / Individual) will be generated. Faculty members and students are encouraged to apply and work for sponsored projects and fellowship programmes.

Principal investigator of government and non-government projects will follow the procedure of appointing and fixing the stipend of JRF/SRF as per the conditions of the funding agencies subject to the approval of the Registrar.



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(e) Publications:

- i. Every faculty member should publish at least two research papers in a year in Scopus / WoS / Peer reviewed journals of acceptable quality as per UGC Reference List of Quality Journals.

(f) Research Incentive Schemes:

- i. It is important for a progressive institute to motivate member of the faculty to publish regularly, Innovate and to effect patentable work.
- ii. Providing the following incentives and awards to improve research performances and stimulate faculty members into continued Research pursuits.
 1. Best Researcher award – Funded Project
 2. Best Researcher award – Publications
 3. Incentives for publish/award of patents
 4. Incentives for presenting papers in international conferences in reputed institutions.
 5. SPIHER Research Promotion scheme to provide incentives for full time faculty pursuing Ph.D in SPIHER

(g) Academic Dishonesty and Disciplinary Committee:

As per UGC guidelines, Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP) and Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) have been formed in order to conduct inquiry when academic/Research Dishonesty is reported against an individual / group. Suitable disciplinary action may be initiated, if found guilty.



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(h) St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research will review the policy every 5 years or earlier as per the requirement.

(i) Innovation Eco System

Innovation Eco System of St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research acts as the driver of innovation. The main objective of the system is to promote creativity and innovation among students and teachers, 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.

- i. Centre for Innovation
- ii. Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC)
- iii. SPEC – Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST, GoI)
- iv. SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of MSME, GoI)

2. Research Committee to monitor and address Issues:

The Board of Research Studies is a body to regulate the programmes for research degrees like M.Phil. and Ph.D. as per the UGC regulations. It is headed by the Vice Chancellor with various Deans, Heads of departments, senior professors and experts from other universities and the industries as its members.

The performance of Board of Research Studies is based on all the duties and functions related to research as specified by the provisions of the UGC.



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Framing of the regulations for research programmes, admission norms, monitoring the minimum standards and imparting the quality and standards in the research programmes are the prime responsibilities of the BoRS.

Some of the recommendations of the BoRS are as follows

- Minimum standards and regulations for M.Phil. / Ph. D. guideship.
- Registration of candidates for M.Phil. / Ph.D. programmes.
- Speedy evaluation of M.Phil. / Ph.D. theses.

The BoRS recently insisted that a minimum of two papers should be published in reputed journals prior to submitting the Ph.D. synopsis. The BoRS also has made i. Pre-Ph.D. presentation, (ii) Submission of six month progress reports, (iii) Review meetings and (iv) Advisory Committee meetings, mandatory for the submission of synopsis.

The impact of these recommendations can be seen in the quality of the research output. Publications in international journals with impact factor and Scopus / Web of science / ICI indexed journals have increased. Evaluation process has also been strengthened.

3. Proactive mechanisms adopted by the institute to facilitate the smooth implementation of research schemes/projects.

- Advance funding for sanctioned project
- Providing seed money
- Simplification of the procedures related to sanction/purchases to be made by the investigators
- Autonomy to the principal investigators/coordinators for utilizing overhead charges
- Timely release of grants
- Timely auditing
- Submission of utilization certificate to the funding authorities




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The Institute assists the faculty members and research scholars in the smooth implementation of projects.

The Institute provides seed funding and partial funding for innovative student projects. Seed money grants are provided to support research activities which has the potential to generate extramural funding or an equivalent measure of scholarly achievement. Grants to be provided only to full time faculty members of our institution. On completion of the research work, concerned faculty is required to submit utilization certificate including the expenditure statement along with the outcome of the research work.

The finance section helps in timely release of funds. A purchase committee is formed for the purchase of equipments in the projects sanctioned. The committee finalizes the purchase related to the project as well as the general purchases made by the Institute. The finance office facilitates the faculty in submitting the utilization certificate to the funding agencies within the stipulated time.

4. Interdisciplinary research promotion between different departments

- (i) Joint proposals by the departments are encouraged.
- (ii) Science and Humanities Departments, Circuit branches and non-circuit branches of Engineering departments join to carry out interdisciplinary/collaborate research on related subjects.
- (iii) MoUs with National/ International Institutes facilitate the faculty of the departments concerned to carry out joint research programmes using the advanced facilities in the host labs/centres to improve the quality of their research and publications.





5. Visit of eminent researchers as adjunct professors

The visit of eminent scientists/ professors of various disciplines to the institute and their interactions with faculty, research scholars and students will be helpful in creating awareness on thrust areas of research and advanced research techniques. It also helps the students and Ph.D.

scholars to get exposed to international standards. These activities have helped the research scholars publish articles in standard journals in collaboration with faculty.

6. Awarding post-Doctoral Fellowships/ Research Associateships

Institute encourages the scholars to register for Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Research Associateships. Institute Research Fellows are available for meritorious full research scholars pursuing Ph.D.

7. Financial provisions made in the Institute budget for supporting student's research projects

From the funds of the Institute, core labs and computer labs have been established in various departments for the use of the Ph.D. scholars. These labs have internet connectivity. INFLIBNET which promotes sharing of Ph.D. thesis can be accessed by the students, through this connectivity. Field trips shall be arranged for students to visit Institutions of Higher Learning, Industries and National Laboratories.

The institute supports students project funding through grants from funding agencies. Funds are also made available from TBI and MSME incubator schemes. The Institute has also funded student projects for various competitions.




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8. Patents

Supervisor shall assign the innovative problems to the Ph.D. Scholars, so that outcome of the Ph.D. Thesis may be eligible to file the Patent.

9. Efforts to improve infrastructure requirements to facilitate research and strategies evolved to meet the needs of researches in emerging disciplines.

The Institute encourages the faculty to tap funds through National/International agencies for infrastructure facilities. The Institute also mobilizes funds and allocates funds for each department under non-recurring head for the purchase of equipment, furniture and other aspects needed for the strengthening the infrastructure of research laboratories.

Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF) with highly sophisticated spectrophotometers for materials characterization is utilized for research purpose in SPIHER. Through Technology Business Incubator, machines have been purchased from grants sanctioned through DST for Rs. 150 lakhs in the area of advanced manufacturing technology including CATIA software. Infrastructures in many laboratories have been strengthened with new equipments from institute funds to meet the requirements of UG/PG/Research scholars.

10. Information Resource center to cater to the needs of researchers.

The Institute has an information resource centre in the Institute UG and PG Library, which helps in guiding the students for getting the resources. The following are the information source facilities available in our library.

- INFLIBNET Consortium Link
- DELNET
- Online Public Access Catalog
- Open source On line database
- Current awareness services
- Research Alert
- NPTEL course materials
- Facility to access other libraries in Chennai




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11. Establishment of Institute Analytical Instrumentation Center:

The Institute has established a Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF) housed with highly sophisticated spectrophotometers such as Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer with attenuated total reflectance technique, Ultraviolet visible spectrophotometer with DRS/ DTS techniques and Photo Luminescence spectrophotometer and other scientific instruments. SAIF provides a dynamic thrust to current research and developmental activities of the institute. This facility is also extended to other research institutions and nearby industries. SAIF-SPIHER is undertaking consultancy services required for faculty's research, and project related works. SAIF-SPIHER conducts workshops at different levels. The beneficiaries include teachers, Research scholars, PG students and technicians of our institute and other institutions. Fund allotted for SAIF SPIHER is Rupees 100 Lakhs.

12. Provision of residential facilities (with computer and internet facility) for research scholars, research associates.

The Institute provides residential facilities with internet facilities in the boys and girls hostels for research scholars.

13. Specialized research centers to address the special challenges of research programmes.

The Institute has the following specialized centers on campus for dissemination of knowledge and motivating research in thrust areas.

- (i) Disaster Management
- (ii) Advanced Materials
- (iii) Nanoscience and Nanotechnology




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14. Centers to motivate and guide researchers to explore the avenues of various research areas and funding supports:

The Institute has started three Centres which motivate students, faculty and research scholars to undertake innovative research in thrust areas. They also enable to identify funding agencies. Technical programmes have been arranged by these Centres for exchange of latest knowledge and interaction with experts.

15. Institution of Sir C.V. Raman Young Scientist Award

The Institute has instituted Sir C.V. Raman Young Scientist Award to be given every year from 2015 onwards. The award aims to promote innovative scientific research in reputed academic institutions / Universities / Research institutions within India by encouraging and rewarding innovations which have positive impact on our Society. The award carries a cash prize and a citation.

16. Institution Ethics Committee (IEC)

As per the WHO definition, a clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants to one or more health related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcome. Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) is the committee formed of a group of people who go through the research protocol / proposal and state whether or not it is ethically acceptable. ICMR Code is the statement of Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Participants. These Statements of General and Specific Principles may be varied, amended, substituted and added from time to time. To safeguard the welfare and the rights of the participants it is mandatory that all proposals on biomedical research involving human participants should be cleared by an appropriately constituted Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC). All the research articles published by faculty are scrutinized by the IEC.

17. Incentives:

The Institute places on record the contributions of faculty and students in the form of Commendation, monetary incentive medal and Certificate of honor.

14.04.2017




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