

AVANTIKA UNIVERSITY

Research Policy

Brief Statement

Research is one of the critical functions of any academic institute and it is well defined in the Vision, Mission and Objectives of Avantika University. The Research Policy at Avantika University is based on the philosophy of *Create, Change and Transform*. Avantika University is dedicated to excellence in research and aiming to lead the research domain across all the spectrum of technology, sciences, design, management, humanities, and social responsibilities.

The main objective of Avantika University focusses on the Freedom of Thinking, which is the basis of any research. Research Policy is framed such that the Faculties and Students are free to go multi-dimensional approach of research and can create new aspect and horizon of domain. We create an environment of cross discipline collaboration within the University and with other Institutions and Universities.

Therefore, a structured Research Policy has been created for promotion and upgrading research aptitude in the institute. The present research policy aims to help University, faculty members, researchers, and students to achieve brilliance, superiority and contribute to their society.

Objectives

The primary and core strategies of the University are to confront few of the critical challenges in the domain that plays a major role in technological development, individual health, and environment through multi-disciplinary research. Our university has made continuous efforts to bring the research focus in line with the national importance of achieving technological autonomy. The main objectives of research are as follows:

- a. To promote Industry Oriented quality research, innovation and intellectual capital
- b. Encourage the philosophy for inter –disciplinary as well as multi-disciplinary collaborations
- c. To integrate Research into day-to-day teaching and learning activities.
- d. To evaluate quality of research for improving research standard in the University.
- e. To promote quality research, innovation, and intellectual capital.
- f. To ensure integrity and ethics in research.
- g. To incentivize the generation of intellectual capital.



Research Development Committee

The University constituted Research Committee is chaired by the Vice Chancellor. The Research Committee members at the school level assist faculty members in their domains. The committee facilitates case writing workshops, FDPs, research methodology workshops and conferences that are conducted regularly in the schools. The committee also evaluate the development and status of the research work done by the faculty members regularly. It also provides assistance to the PhD research scholars and students of various programs registered with the University for their Research work/projects. The committee proposes new measures and initiatives to promote research, innovation, and intellectual capital. The committee ensures originality in all research work conducted by faculty/ students of the University. It also decides various awards and incentives to be given to promote research. At least one meeting of research development committee is required to be organized in each academic year. The committee comprises of following members.

Sr. No	Designation	Role
1.	Vice Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Research coordinator	Member Secretary
3.	Registrar	Members
4.	Deans of the Schools	Members
5	A senior faculties from each school	Members

Promotion of Research

Right Research Practice (RRP) is essentially describing the way in which research should be planned and executed, the results can be recorded and published, and the benefits are applied, disseminated, and exploited.

If researchers across all the domains and levels are taught and supervised properly in a research culture that promotes open discussions, RRP can truly be achieved. Research management is accountable for developing a platform of academic freedom for young scholar and ensure that they gain suitable skillset including proper training and experience to carry out their duties effectively.

The University provides proper guidance and supervision structures the critical framework for quality research practice. Steps for RRP include continuous monitoring of research training



and supervision of novice researchers, regular evaluations of recorded data and results, and intermittent checks on the routine conduct of experiments.

The University shall provide favorable environment for research. The University shall provide and allocate the area, research facilities, funding, according to the merits of the scholarly work. It shall also provide all the support to the researchers for writing research proposal, report, publication, patent filing, Design registration, Copyrights etc. It also encourages faculty members to participate in various research conferences, seminars, workshops, fellowship programs, FDPs etc. organized at national and international levels.

Planning the research

All research projects should be devised, designed and put into practice according to the highest level of standards. Some guidelines to achieve that includes:

- Clear documentation should be maintained regarding the intent for the study, methodology, calculations, and any subsequent modifications, either in laboratory, research notebooks or in the project files.
- Each critical document with proper versions should be signed with date by the researcher responsible to establish the source of the study and protect intellectual property rights.
- The researcher should follow the current safety practices and ethical standards.
- He should be responsible for maintaining and securing all necessary ethical and regulatory approvals.
- The researcher should regularly review the research progress necessary to identify new findings

Conducting the research

- Any Equipment used for research work and to generate data should be checked for its applicable design and should have sufficient capacity.
- Each equipment should have its standard operating procedure (SOP) which needs to incorporate mandatory instructions for the safe stoppage of equipment during emergency.
- Equipment used for the research should be calibrated and maintained regularly by trained person so that the outcomes or findings can be trusted.
- There should be complete transparency at the beginning of the research to the possession and use of, wherever applicable:
 - a. Research data used or generated during the course of work
 - b. The results of the research work

During the starting of any research project, the accountability and procedures for the storage, retrieval and disposal of data as well as information should be made clear. Research scholars and faculties should keep all the interim as well as final records clearly and precisely including



every methods followed, and the approvals granted during the research work. This is required as a means of establishing proper research practice A well-documented notebooks may be used as an evidence during establishing ownership of work.

Professional guidance and legislation

The University expects all researchers including scholars, faculties, students, research trainees etc. to reflect and follow all the guidelines of research practice published by various scientific societies, and other government bodies.

All scholars and researchers should be mindful of the legal requirements, which regulate their work noting particularly data protection, health and safety legislation.

Training

The University will propose regular research-oriented course to enable research scholars and students to understand and follow best practices in research. Research Supervisors should encourage scholars to register for critically important career development courses. A few in this regard are Design User Research, Research ethics Data analytics, management and Protection, Management of intellectual property.

Supervision

The University provides a suitable direction of research and continuously monitors into the fact that research faculties are trained in supervisory skills. Research guide supervises all stages of the research progress, including defining, outlining or developing a theory documenting the submission of research project.

Dissemination and publication of results

The university encourages facilities to responsibly publish data, results, conclusions in high-quality research journals. Scholars should consider the following guidelines when publishing research findings in a conference or in websites or letters.

1. The university should be informed in advance when the research work might be published
2. Every research work proposed by the scholars should be peer reviewed prior to being published.
3. All the agencies responsible for funding must be cited and acknowledged
4. The first author of research manuscripts paper should fully accept the responsibility that he or she is the original contributor

Integrity

The University offers and follows an appropriate structure to encourage and promote good research practice, giving utmost importance to integrity and consistency in research. It also expects that the faculties and researchers should follow the highest standards of integrity during any kind of research. Research scholars should be honest and ethical to their own course of decisions during the research and their reactions to the activities of other



researchers. This applies during the complete range of research activities including development and design of experiments, data generation and its analysis, publication of results, reviewing the work of other scholars and applying for grants. There should be proper acknowledgement of all the direct and indirect contributors, colleagues, and collaborators. For any research work, scholars are responsible to their work, people involved directly or indirectly, the university where the work is being performed, the workforce as well as students involved and, the sponsoring bodies. Endangering research integrity can hinder the progress of knowledge, society, and individual health. fabrication or falsification of outcomes, Plagiarism, duplicity, is considered as a serious penalizing offense. Research Scholars are persuaded to report cases of any misconduct in a responsible and correct manner.

Incentives on Publication, Projects, and Intellectual Property

Faculty

Recognition in the form of Incentive points and certificate of appreciation by the University will be given to the faculties for publication in Journals and Conferences (Scopus or SCI indexed) as per the Incentive Policy formed by the University. In case of faculty getting awards from external agency or best paper award in a renowned (Web of Science, Scopus etc.) conferences, university will appreciate the researcher by providing monetary benefit.

Faculty members are also encouraged to apply for research projects. Teaching load will be reduced for the faculty member who gets projects from Government/ Non-Government recognized organizations. Monetary benefits and incentive points will be awarded to the faculty according to the quality of funded projects which is shown below.

S. No	Funding amount	Approximate Monetary Benefits (in Rs.)
1	1 to 20 lakhs	5.0% of funding amount
2	Above 20 Lakhs	7.5% of funding amount

Students

For student publication in Journal (Scopus or SCI indexed), a fixed amount and appreciation certificate will be awarded to the student according to the order of authorship. Each Student will be awarded the certificate of appreciation for publication in the conferences. If any student is awarded with the best paper at the international conference (Scopus or SCI indexed), the registration fee of that conference will be provided by the University. Regarding the capstone project, at the end of the jury, exhibition of the work done will be planned school wise. The best performers during the exhibition will be awarded according to their ranking



S. No	Rank	Prize Money (in Rs.)
1	First	5000
2	Second	3000
3	Third	2000

Faculty/Staff Member Nomination for Research FDPs

All the faculty/staff members are encouraged/nominated by the university to participate in

the faculty development Program which can be held inside or outside the country during an academic year. The sponsorship can include the following

- a. registration fees,
- b. travelling, lodging and DA as per the travelling policy

The prior approval from the VC is mandatory. However, the researchers are encouraged to show the outcome of the FDP in the form of either publication.

Research Facilities

University has keen interest in developing conducive and encouraging Research Environment. University will provide.

- Industry Connects through Career Service and Design Center to get the Industry Oriented Research Projects.
- Faculty members will be allotted with a well-equipped cabin with desktop or Laptop, stationary items, printing, photocopy, etc. so that they can freely work on their research projects.
- Coordinators for each research activities like projects, summer internship projects, research methodology workshops, case writing workshops, conferences, research paper contests, etc. These coordinators will be faculties of respective schools and their main duty is to promote the research activities.
- Access to Unlimited issue of books, Journals, articles Reports, etc.
- Access of anti-plagiarism and grammatical check software to its faculty and staff members. All the faculties and staff undergoing for the research work will follow policy for Code of Ethics.
- University will frequently organize Seminars, Conferences, Faculty Development Programs, etc.

Seed Money

Avantika University provides seed money to encourage as well as to support research and innovation amongst faculty. Seed money helps the young scholar to initiate or continue the research project. The main objective of providing the seed money is to increase the possibility of receiving the financial support from professional and government agencies in future.

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The proposer or principal investigator must effectively and strongly present the novelty of the proposed work. It should also demonstrate how the work represents a potential improvement in the domain possibly. The principal investigator of the funded project will be awarded the incentive points as per the policy. The project which will be selected for seed money should have the greater potential, substantial research/scientific merit for external funding, publications, creative outcomes etc. and it should also encourage inter-disciplinary collaborations.

Applicant Eligibility

1. Applicant must be a regular faculty of the university
2. A post graduate degree is mandatory for the Principal Investigator (PI)
3. PI may be allowed to submit a fresh request in a same academic year, if proposal is turned down by the research committee
4. In case of faculty resignation without completion of project, the PI is expected to return all the seed money approved by the university.
5. A well-documented report along with publications, creative outcomes and achievements is mandatory after the completion of the project. PI must also present before the research committee and schools regarding the activities and results of the project.
6. The period of seed money grant will be maximum two years and will not be extended beyond that.

Proposal Submission

The project proposal can be submitted throughout the year as per the proposal format.

Funding Budget

The seed money grant provided by the university will be up to Rs. 1,50,000 for period of two years. The funding can be used to purchase any related software subscription, equipment, machines and consumables. The money can also be utilized for registration and travel support for attending the faculty development program and conferences based on prior approval from VC. It can also be used for purchasing books and any other related membership of scientific societies.

Important Considerations

It is the sole responsibility of the PI regarding the proper utilization of the seed money. He should be careful regarding any purchases and ensures that it is as per the policy of the university. Any capital apparatus purchased from this grant will be the property of the Avantika university.

