

Research Policy

1. Introduction

Seacom Skills University (SSU) is committed to advancing knowledge and fostering innovation through high-quality research. The Research Policy serves as a guiding framework to encourage scholarly excellence, enhance research output, and ensure integrity in academic activities. This policy outlines the university's guidelines and principles related to research publications, recognition of scholarly work, and the awarding of Doctoral Degrees. This document ensures that the university's research practices align with high standards and contribute to societal development.

2a. Objectives of the Research Policy

- To promote an environment of research excellence among faculty, scholars, and students.
- To promote high-quality research and publications among scholars.
- To ensure the dissemination of impactful research through publications in reputed national and international journals.
- To support and monitor doctoral programs, ensuring alignment with global academic standards.
- To maintain transparency and integrity in awarding doctoral degrees.
- To support research that contributes to societal, economic, and technological advancement.
- To encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives.
- To uphold ethical standards in all research activities.

2b. Scope of the Research Policy

This policy applies to all faculty members, research scholars, doctoral candidates, and students engaged in research activities at SSU. It includes:

- Research publications in journals, conferences, books, and patents.
- Ph.D. programs conducted and degrees awarded by the university.
- Research collaborations and projects.

3. Research Environment and Infrastructure

3.1 Research Facilities

SSU shall ensure state-of-the-art laboratories, libraries, and digital resources to facilitate cutting-edge research.

3.2 Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Researchers are encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations to enhance research impact.

3.3 Funding and Grants

The university shall actively seek funding from government agencies, industry, and international bodies to support research initiatives.

4. Research Publications

4.1 Expectations from Scholars

- Faculties and Scholars are expected to publish high-quality research in peer-reviewed journals with a strong academic reputation (indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, or UGC-CARE listed).

4.2 Institutional Support

- Financial support may be provided for publishing in open-access journals, conference participation, or patent registration.
- Workshops, training programs, and seminars will be organized to enhance research capabilities.

4.3 Quality Assurance

- All publications must undergo a rigorous review process to ensure authenticity and relevance and must adhere to ethical guidelines ensuring originality avoiding plagiarism.
- Publications should be free from data manipulation and unethical authorship practices.
- The university discourages publications in predatory or low-quality journals.

5. Doctoral Programs

5.1 Admission and Supervision

- Admission to SSU's Ph.D. programs will be based on merit and research potential, assessed through entrance exams, interviews, and a research proposal.
- Each Ph.D. scholar will be assigned a qualified supervisor, with co-supervisors where ever required on the basis of research objectives as well as plan of work.

5.2 Progress Monitoring

- Research scholars must submit bi-annual progress reports and present their findings in departmental reviews.
- Doctoral work will be evaluated through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and thesis submission.

5.3 Award of Ph.D.s

- The awarding of doctoral degrees follows a rigorous process of evaluation, including coursework examination, proposal presentation, progress report presentations, pre-submission seminar and a thesis defense.
- An external peer review of the thesis is mandatory.
- SSU recognizes the accomplishments of its doctoral graduates and their contributions in their respective fields.
- A summary of the research areas and notable achievements of Ph.D. recipients will be maintained and showcased annually.

5.4 Quality Assurance

To maintain the credibility of its doctoral programs, SSU shall:

- Implement regular reviews of Ph.D. programs.
- Ensure that each Ph.D. candidate publishes at least two research papers in peer-reviewed journals before submission of thesis.
- Ensure that each Ph.D. candidate presented two papers in International or national conferences or seminars before submission of thesis.

5.5 Recognition of Doctoral Research

Outstanding doctoral research will be recognized through awards and grants. The university will also assist in the publication of doctoral research findings in reputed journals.

6. Research Ethics and Integrity

6.1 Ethical Conduct

- All research must adhere to ethical guidelines, including obtaining necessary permissions for human/ animal studies.
- SSU expects all researchers to adhere to the highest standards of integrity. Any allegations of misconduct will be investigated by a dedicated committee.
- Violations of research integrity, including plagiarism and data fabrication, will result in disciplinary action, ranging from suspension of research privileges to termination of Ph.D. studentship and employment.
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will be monitored through software tools and manual checks provided by UGC Inflibnet through Shodh Shuddhi portal.
- Researchers must disclose any conflicts of interest in their work to ensure transparency and fairness.

6.2 Ownership (IPR and Copyright)

Generally, the university and the researcher will share ownership of the intellectual property arising from university research.

6.3 Commercialization and Patents

Researchers will be supported in filing patents and commercializing their innovations.

7. Research Collaboration

7.1 Internal and External Partnerships

- SSU encourages collaborative research with industries, government bodies, and international institutions.
- Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) may be established to facilitate joint research projects.

7.2 Funding Opportunities

- The university will assist researchers in securing funding from external agencies such as DST, DBT, CSIR, UGC, and international bodies.

8. Recognition and Rewards

8.1 Research Awards

- Outstanding research contributions will be recognized through awards, financial incentives, and public acknowledgment.

8.2 Career Advancement

- Research output will be considered a significant factor in promotions and professional growth at SSU.

9. Monitoring and Review

9.1 Doctoral Advisory Committee

- A Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) will oversee the implementation of the research policy, evaluate progress, and recommend improvements.

9.2 Research performance will be evaluated based on:

- Awards and recognition from academic and research institutes and international levels and research regulatory bodies of national level.
- Number and quality of publications.
- Citations and impact factors.

10. Conclusion

This policy reflects Seacom Skills University's commitment to fostering a vibrant research environment of integrity, innovation, and collaboration and commitment to excellence in research and scholarship. By supporting its scholars and ensuring the quality of its doctoral programs, SSU aims to contribute meaningfully to academia, industry, and society at large.