SRI VENKATESWARAA UNIVERSITY

(Established under Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019)

RESEARCH POLICY

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Revision Details

Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
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1. PREAMBLE

Sri Venkateswaraa University is committed to promote excellence in research, innovation and knowledge creation. As a University of higher learning, SVU recognises that research is fundamental to the advancement of knowledge, improvement of teaching and learning, development of innovative solutions to societal problems, and contribution to national and global development.

The University seeks to establish a vibrant, ethical, inclusive and intellectually stimulating research ecosystem in which faculty members, researchers and students are encouraged to pursue meaningful, high-quality and impactful research.

This Research Policy provides the institutional framework for planning, promoting, supporting, conducting, monitoring and translating research at Sri Venkateswaraa University.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive framework for research activities undertaken within or under the auspices of Sri Venkateswaraa University.

The policy applies to faculty members, research scholars and postdoctoral researchers, students undertaking research projects, research staff and technical personnel, research centres, and departments.

Further it also applies to University-funded research activities, research conducted using University infrastructure or resources, and collaborative research undertaken on behalf of or in association with the University.

The policy applies to research across all disciplines and interdisciplinary areas.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy:

Research means a systematic and rigorous process of inquiry undertaken to generate new knowledge, validate existing knowledge, develop new methodologies, solve problems or provide evidence-based understanding.

Researcher includes faculty members, research scholars, students, postdoctoral researchers and other persons undertaking research under the University.

Research Project means a defined programme of investigation with specified objectives, methodology, resources, timelines and expected outcomes.

Research Integrity refers to honesty, transparency, accountability, rigour and responsibility in all stages of research.

Research Misconduct includes fabrication and falsification of result data, plagiarism and other violations of traditional research practices.

Research Ethics refers to principles governing the ethical conduct of research involving human participants, animals, biological materials, personal data or other potentially sensitive areas.

4. VISION FOR RESEARCH

Sri Venkateswaraa University shall strive to become a leading centre of research, innovation and knowledge creation by fostering excellence and originality in research, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, innovation and technology development, translation of research into practice, ethical and responsible research, research addressing national and global challenges, collaboration at national and international levels, and fostering strong research culture among faculty and students.

The University shall encourage research that is not merely publication-oriented but contributes meaningfully to knowledge, society, and industry.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH POLICY

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Promote a strong, sustainable and ethical research culture across the University.
2. Encourage high-quality, original and innovative research and develop research capacity among faculty members and students and promote innovation, intellectual

property generation and entrepreneurship. Further to encourage responsible use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

3. Strengthen research infrastructure and get external research grants/funding.
4. Promote interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary research, national and international research collaborations..
5. Facilitate translation and societal application of research findings.
6. Establish effective systems for research monitoring and evaluation.
7. Enhance the visibility and impact of SVU research nationally and internationally.

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Academic freedom shall be upheld as a fundamental principle of research, fostering an environment in which researchers can pursue knowledge freely and responsibly. All research shall be guided by research integrity and scientific rigour, with emphasis on originality and innovation. Transparency and accountability shall be maintained throughout the research process, while respecting human dignity and ensuring the protection of research participants. Researchers shall also uphold environmental responsibility, inclusivity and non-discrimination, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. Innovation shall be pursued responsibly, with due consideration of its ethical, social, and environmental implications.

Above all, research shall be oriented towards social relevance and public benefit, contributing meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge, society, and human well-being.:

7. RESEARCH GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The University shall establish an appropriate institutional framework for planning, coordination and monitoring of research by constituting Research Advisory Board. This board shall provide strategic guidance regarding research priorities, funding, infrastructure, collaboration, innovation and research performance.

The Vice-Chancellor/ Vice-Chancellor shall provide overall leadership for research and innovation at the University.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean (Research) shall facilitate implementation of the University's research vision and coordinate research-related activities as assigned.

A University Research and Development/Research Department will be established to provide administrative and technical support for research activities and ensures that research governance is transparent, efficient and accountable.

8. RESEARCH PLANNING AND PRIORITY AREAS

The University shall periodically identify broad and emerging research priority areas based on:

- National priorities;
- Global challenges;
- Sustainable Development Goals;
- State and regional needs;
- Emerging scientific and technological developments;
- Institutional strengths;
- Available expertise and infrastructure; and
- Opportunities for interdisciplinary/ multidisciplinary collaboration.

Research priority areas shall not restrict academic freedom. Researchers shall continue to pursue investigator-driven research of academic merit.

The University shall encourage research addressing areas such as health, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, digital technologies, environmental sustainability, agriculture, social development, education, materials science, emerging technologies and other areas relevant to national development.

9. RESEARCH FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The University shall encourage researchers to obtain competitive research grants from governmental, non-governmental, industrial, philanthropic and international funding agencies.

Researchers shall be supported in identifying suitable funding opportunities and preparing competitive proposals.

The University may provide seed grants, start-up research support, support for preliminary studies, guidance for external grant applications, matching or co-funding support where feasible, and financial support for strategic research initiatives.

The University shall encourage resource mobilisation through research consultancy, sponsored research, collaborative projects and other legitimate mechanisms.

All externally funded research shall comply with applicable financial, administrative and statutory requirements.

10. RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

The University shall develop and maintain modern research infrastructure and facilities. Where appropriate, major research facilities shall be developed as central/shared facilities to maximise utilisation and avoid unnecessary duplication.

The University shall establish central instrumentation facilities, advanced laboratories, digital research infrastructure, high-performance computing, research databases, institutional repositories, data storage facilities, and shared technical expertise.

The institution shall ensure the maintenance, timely calibration, safe operation, and quality assurance of all research infrastructures, with appropriate institutional oversight and support.

11. RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

The University shall continuously strengthen the research capabilities of faculty members, research scholars and students.

Capacity-building programmes may include conduction of programs and workshops on research methodology, biostatistics and data analysis, scientific writing, grant proposal preparation, research ethics, intellectual property rights, systematic reviews and evidence synthesis; digital research tools, artificial intelligence and data science, laboratory techniques, and research project management;

Young faculty members and early-career researchers shall receive appropriate mentoring and institutional encouragement.

12. RESEARCH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

All research conducted at or under the auspices of SVU shall comply with applicable ethical standards, statutory requirements and recognised national and international guidelines.

Researchers shall ensure:

- Honesty in data generation and reporting;
- Accurate documentation;
- Appropriate attribution of contributions;
- Transparency in methodology;
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest;
- Protection of research participants;
- Responsible data management; and proper preservation of research records.

Research shall not be undertaken merely to increase publication or academic metrics at the expense of scientific quality or integrity.

13. INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Institutional Ethics Committee will be constituted by the University for its Constituent Institutions to undertake research involving human participants in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

Ethics Committees shall independently review research proposals involving human participants and ensure protection of their rights, safety, dignity, privacy, and welfare.

Where research involves specialised areas such as medical, nursing, pharmacy, dental, allied health or other health-related research, appropriate expertise will be included in the Ethics Committee. No research requiring ethical approval shall commence without the required approval.

14. RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS

Research involving human participants shall comply with applicable national and international ethical standards.

Researchers shall obtain informed consent wherever required. Confidentiality and privacy of participants shall be protected.

Special care shall be taken when research involves vulnerable populations.

Researchers shall ensure that risks to participants are minimised and are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits.

15. RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS

Research involving animals shall comply with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines.

The University shall maintain appropriate institutional mechanisms for ethical review and monitoring of animal research.

Researchers shall follow the principles of humane treatment and the internationally recognised principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (3Rs) wherever applicable.

16. BIOSAFETY AND LABORATORY SAFETY

All research involving biological agents, hazardous materials, chemicals, radiation or other potentially dangerous substances shall comply with applicable safety requirements.

Researchers shall follow approved laboratory safety procedures, use appropriate personal protective equipment, maintain safety records, ensure proper waste disposal, report accidents and incidents, and obtain required institutional approvals.

The University shall promote a culture of safety and risk awareness in all research facilities.

17. RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

Researchers shall maintain accurate, secure and appropriately documented research data.

Research data shall be properly recorded, securely stored, accessible to authorised persons, protected against unauthorised alteration or disclosure, and retained for an appropriate period in accordance with institutional and regulatory requirements. Researchers shall maintain

adequate records to permit verification or replication of research findings wherever reasonably possible.

Sensitive and personally identifiable information shall receive appropriate protection.

18. RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University shall actively encourage collaboration among departments, research centres, constituent institutions, other universities and research organisations, hospitals, industries, government agencies, and international institutions.

Collaborative research shall clearly define responsibilities, resource commitments, ownership of intellectual property, data management and other relevant matters.

19. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

SVU shall promote meaningful international research collaborations that strengthen institutional research capacity, facilitate knowledge exchange, and enhance the global visibility of the University. Such collaborations may include joint research projects, joint funding proposals, faculty and student exchange programmes, joint supervision of research scholars, sharing of research infrastructure and resources, participation in international conferences and workshops, and collaborative innovation initiatives.

All international collaborations shall comply with applicable Indian laws, University regulations and funding-agency requirements.

The University shall promote research opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students through research projects, internships, fellowships and other suitable programmes.

20. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The University shall encourage researchers to identify and protect intellectual property arising from research.

Intellectual property may include patents, copyrights, designs, trademarks, software, databases, biological materials, processes, devices, and other protectable innovations.

Ownership and commercialisation of intellectual property generated using University resources shall be governed by applicable University policies, agreements and laws. The University shall facilitate technology transfer and commercialisation of promising research outcomes.

21. INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND START-UPS

SVU shall promote translation of research into innovative products, services and technologies.

The University will encourage, innovation and incubation, student entrepreneurship, faculty entrepreneurship, start-up development, industry partnerships, technology transfer, and commercialisation of research outcomes.

Appropriate incubation and innovation facilities may be established or strengthened for this purpose.

22. RESEARCH TRANSLATION AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

The ultimate value of research lies not only in generating knowledge but also in its meaningful application.

The University shall encourage researchers to translate research findings into clinical or professional practice, public policy, educational practice, technology and, community interventions, industrial applications, and other socially beneficial outcomes.

23. INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The University shall actively promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research. Institutions and departments shall be encouraged to collaborate across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Special emphasis shall be given to complex problems that require expertise from multiple disciplines. The University may establish multidisciplinary research centres, thematic research groups and strategic research clusters.

24. OPEN SCIENCE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

SVU shall promote responsible and appropriate sharing of research knowledge and outputs.

Where legally and ethically permissible, researchers shall be encouraged to make research findings, data and other scholarly resources accessible through appropriate repositories and platforms.

The University will promote open access where appropriate, institutional repositories, FAIR principles for research data where applicable, digital research infrastructure and responsible use of emerging technologies.

25. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN RESEARCH

The University recognises the growing importance of artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, automation and other emerging technologies in research.

Researchers may use such technologies responsibly to analyse data, identify patterns, develop predictive models, assist research design, support literature analysis, develop innovative tools, and facilitate interdisciplinary research.

However, use of AI shall not compromise research integrity, confidentiality, originality, transparency or accountability. Researchers shall remain ultimately responsible for the accuracy, integrity and validity of research outputs generated with the assistance of AI or other technologies.

Detailed provisions relating to the use of AI in scholarly publication shall be governed by the separate **SVU Publication Policy**.

26. RESEARCH PERFORMANCE, INCENTIVES AND RECOGNITION

The University shall establish appropriate mechanisms to recognise excellence in research.

Research performance may be evaluated using a balanced range of indicators, including:

- Quality and originality of research;
- Competitive research funding;
- Patents and intellectual property;
- Research collaborations;
- Research students supervised;
- Research impact;
- Innovation and technology transfer;
- Societal contribution; and

The University may institute research awards, fellowships, seed grants, recognition programmes and other incentives to encourage excellence. However, eesearch incentives shall not encourage unethical practices or excessive emphasis on publication counts alone.

Detailed publication-related incentives, where applicable, shall be governed by the separate SVU Publication Policy.

27. RESEARCH MONITORING, MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION, RECORDS AND AUDIT

The University shall establish mechanisms to monitor research activities and ensure compliance with approved policies and regulations.

Research projects may be periodically reviewed for progress, financial utilisation, ethical compliance, research quality, achievement of objectives, and expected outcomes.

Research Misconduct

Research misconduct includes, but is not limited to fabrication of data, falsification of data, plagiarism, manipulation or suppression of research findings, unauthorised use of another person's work or data, misrepresentation of research achievements, and serious violations of ethical requirements.

Allegations of research misconduct shall be handled through a fair, confidential and transparent institutional process.

Records and Audit

The University may undertake research audits to assess compliance, documentation, utilisation of resources and research governance.

Researchers shall maintain adequate records and cooperate with authorised institutional reviews.

28. RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP, RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH UNITS

University Leadership

The University leadership/Dean (Research) shall provide strategic direction for research, facilitate resources and infrastructure, promote research culture, encourage collaborations, ensure ethical governance, and monitor institutional research performance.

Heads of Departments

Heads of Departments shall promote research within their units, facilitate research collaboration, monitor research activities, ensure compliance with ethical and institutional requirements, and encourage grant applications and research capacity building.

Researchers

Researchers shall conduct research honestly and responsibly, obtain required approvals, maintain proper records, protect participants and research data, acknowledge contributions appropriately, declare conflicts of interest, and comply with University policies and applicable laws.

Research Scholars and Students

They shall follow approved research protocols, maintain research integrity and comply with the directions of their supervisors and the University.

29. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SVU PUBLICATION POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Research Policy governs the conduct, promotion, governance and development of research at Sri Venkateswaraa University. Matters specifically relating to scholarly publication shall be governed by a separate SVU Publication Policy. The two policies shall operate together but shall remain distinct.

Implementation

The University shall establish appropriate mechanisms for implementing this policy. All departments, Centres and constituent institutions shall align their research activities with this policy.

The University may issue detailed regulations, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures and institutional frameworks for implementing individual provisions of this policy.

30. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains consistent with, national and international research standards, UGC and other statutory requirements, emerging scientific and technological developments, institutional priorities, and best practices in research governance.

The University reserves the right to amend, modify or update this policy through the appropriate competent authority.

Where any provision of this policy conflicts with applicable law, regulations or directions of competent statutory authorities, the latter shall prevail.