



LALIT NARAYAN MITHILA UNIVERSITY
KAMESHWARANAGAR, DARBHANGA

Research Policy

The present policy, to guide and promote the research enterprises and ensure the integrity of scholarly inquiries at L N Mithila University, has been framed under Section 4(1)(b) of the Bihar State Universities Act, 1976.

1. Preamble

The transmission of knowledge through quality teaching and the generation of new knowledge through conducting scholarly inquiries are two central and complementary functions of L N Mithila University, Darbhanga. They can be carried out effectively only if scholars are guaranteed certain freedoms and their achievements get properly acknowledged and rewarded. Keeping these underlying objectives in view, the present Research Policy has been formulated and approved by the authorities of the University.

2. Scope of the Policy

This research policy shall apply to all Departments, Institutes and Colleges of L N Mithila University, Darbhanga.

3. Policy Authority

The University has a full-fledged **Office of the Deputy Controller-I** to coordinate all research activities in LNMU and to administer/monitor the research activities being carried out at various departments, Institutes and Colleges. The Office of the Deputy Controller-I shall be responsible for the proper and effective execution of the present policy and other policies related to research activities, with the proper approval of the competent authority.

4. Underlying Principles

The Syndicate and the Academic Council of L N Mithila University hereby affirm the following principles for guidance and promotion of research:

- i. Individual scholars should be free to select the subject matter of their research, to design and define their research proposals, to seek support from any source for

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their works, and to state their findings and conclusions without any unreasonable interference or restriction. However, priority will be given to research proposals that are socially relevant and in tune with the academic vision of the University.

- ii. The findings and conclusions of scholars should be available for further scrutiny and verification.
- iii. Research techniques should not violate established research ethics and plagiarism policy formulated by the University and do not inflict injury or pain on human /animal subjects.
- iv. Where, because of limited resources, the University cannot support all research demands, it will allocate resources for research programmes based purely on the scholarly and educational merits of the proposed research, not on the possibility of the political or moral uses of its results.

5. Pre-requisite to Undertake Research

- i. All the research works leading to Ph D Degree shall fully comply with the Uniform Ordinance and Regulations Governing Award of PhD Degree by the Universities of Bihar, approved by the Hon'ble Chancellor vide Memo No.- BSU-05/2010-2684/GS(I) dated 21.09.2017 (amended up to date).
- ii. All the research works leading to D Litt. or D Sc. Degree shall fully comply with the Regulations approved by the University in 2012.
- iii. The faculty of the University may formulate independent research proposals/projects for scholarly contribution and advancement of knowledge in his/her area of specialization.
- iv. Such faculty shall be required to submit the proposal of his/her research work and would make a presentation before **the Departmental Research Council (DRC)** for its approval.
- v. The Departmental Research Council (DRC) shall consist of the following members:
 - a. Head of the Department Convener
 - b. Dean of the Faculty Concerned Member
 - c. All Teachers of the Department holding at least Ph D Degree: Member
- vi. In case, the DRC finds that the synopsis is not up to the mark, it shall make specific suggestions for improving the proposal. The candidate, after making the required improvements shall re-submit his/ her synopsis for approval.

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- vii. In its next meeting, the DRC shall recommend and forward the application to the Dean of Faculty for placing it before the Post Graduate Research Council (PGRC).
- viii. The Dean of the Faculty shall place all such recommendations before the Post Graduate Research Council (PGRC) of the University for final approval.
- ix. If at any time the Vice-Chancellor is satisfied that the meeting of the PGRC is not feasible and the situation requires him/her to take immediate decisions on such proposals involving the exercise of any power vested in PGRC, the Vice-Chancellor shall take such action as he deems fit, and shall report the action taken by him to PGRC in its next meeting which may confirm the action so taken.
- x. The composition of the PGRC shall be the same as prescribed in Section 32 of the Bihar State Universities Act, 1976.
- xi. A letter shall be issued by the office of the Deputy Controller-I to all the candidates whose proposal has been approved or disapproved by the PGRC.
- xii. After approval of the PGRC, the teacher concerned may pursue their research further. He/she will, individually or in collaboration with colleagues/other institutions may secure financial support/funding for research activities from external sources such as government/non-government agencies and industries etc.
- xiii. Any such proposal for fund support from outside agencies shall be submitted by the candidate in the office of the Deputy Controller-I in the format prescribed by the funding agency concerned. The said proposal shall be forwarded by the Deputy Controller-I to the office of the Development Officer, wherefrom it will be processed further.
- xiv. A Junior Research Fellow (UGC/CSIR/Other) or a fellow under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship/National Fellowship for Higher Education of ST Students shall be a full-time residential fellow. The terms and conditions for the award and the duration of a research fellowship shall be as per the guidelines of the respective funding agency. In the absence of any guidelines of a funding agency, the university may frame its guidelines to regulate such fellowships as and when required.

These research fellows are expected to be in their respective Departments during the working hours of the Department. The Fellow, with the consent of the guide/head of department, shall assist the university/institution in its academic work, including tutorials, evaluation of the test papers, laboratory demonstration,

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supervision of fieldwork, library activities like group seminars and symposia, provided such work is not likely to hinder the research programmes on hand. The total amount of time to be spent on such activities shall not exceed ten hours a week.

6. The mechanism for the Execution of Sanctioned research Projects of Faculties:

If any faculty received research project from DST, UGC, ICAR, ICMR or any other funding agency and when the amount is received to the university account from the funding agency then the following mechanism should be adopted:

- (i) If the faculty concerned is working in any University Department then a separate joint account in the name of the Principal Investigator and the Head of the Department should be opened and the sanctioned amount shall be transferred to that account and that project shall be monitored by the respective Departmental Research Council;
- (ii) If the faculty concerned is working in a constituent college of the University, then a separate joint account shall be opened in the name of the Principal of the college concerned and the Principal Investigator and the amount shall be transferred in that account. In such cases also, the project shall be monitored by the respective Departmental Research Council of the University.
- (iii) It shall be the duty of the Principal Investigator to get such accounts audited by a qualified CA every year. On completion of the project the Principal Investigator shall submit the audited final utilisation certificate of respective project account to the Department concerned. The Departmental Research Council shall have power to approve or disapprove the utilisation certificate. On approval of the DRC, utilisation certificate shall counter signed by the Registrar and/or the Finance Officer (as the case may be) of the University for its final submission to the granting agency.

7. The research engagement(s) shall be balanced with the other responsibilities of the Department/Institute/College, including teaching and administration.

6. Research Incentive

- i. A fund shall be created by the University with the approval of the State Government under Section 48 of the BSU Act, 1976 to provide for **Research Incentivisation Grant**.
- ii. Every year an annual estimate of the expenditure expected to be made on the **Research Incentivisation Grant** in the ensuing fiscal year shall be prepared by

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the office of the Deputy Controller-I, which shall form the part of the University Budget for the year.

- iii. A **Research Incentivisation Grant** shall be provided to the teachers in the regular appointment of the University having a publication in UGC Care List/SCOPUS/SCI/WOS journals with impact factor (Thomson Reuters). The faculty being the Sole author would be provided with a cash incentive of Rs. 10,000/- per publication. The cash incentives would be limited to a maximum of two publications per teacher in any academic year and would be announced on the foundation day of the university. Such publications are required to comply with the University's Intellectual Property Policy (IPR Policy).
- iv. To inculcate research culture and incentivise quality research provisions for Seed Money shall be made in the **Research Incentivisation Grant Fund**.
- v. Proposals from teachers in the regular appointment of the University shall be invited by the office of the Deputy Controller-I every year in December/January.
- vi. Proposals pertaining to subjects under Faculty of Science, Social Science, Humanities, Commerce and Fine Arts involving practical work and fieldwork shall be awarded seed money of Rs. 75,000/-, and for general projects (without practical work and fieldwork) Rs. 40,000/- only per project on the approval of the Syndicate on the recommendation of the PGRC.
- vii. It shall be a one-time grant for two years. The amount shall be utilised to initialise the research project and to purchase materials, mini equipment, books and conduct fieldwork. After completion of the project, all the purchased items and remaining consumables shall be the property of the Department of College concerned and the scholar shall be required to return them there.
- viii. As evidence of the outcome of the research work, the scholar/recipient shall be required to get their findings published in book form or article(s) form in any of the peer-reviewed reputed journals.
- ix. The recipient shall have to submit the utilisation certificate every year along with the progress report. After completion of the project, he/she shall be required to submit the audited copy of the utilisation certificate along with the outcome of the project to the office of the Deputy Controller-I within one month. Failing to submit it on time, the entire amount of the seed money shall be recovered from his/her salary.

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- 7. A separate **Research and Instrumentation Centre** shall function under LNMU with the approval of the State Government to enhance the research profile of the University. The Centre is expected to promote research excellence in various areas and build the University's research reputation at the national/international level.
- 8. The University shall establish research collaboration with foreign universities and institutions. It may sign MoUs with Foreign Universities/Institutions, consistent with the provisions of the BSU Act, 1976 and Statutes framed thereunder, for promoting short term students/faculty exchange programmes from the Universities/Institutions of India &/or abroad.

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