

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

**DAVANGERE UNIVERSITY**

Shivagangotri, Davangere-577007 Karnataka.



**Policy Document on Research**  
(An IQAC Initiative)

With effect from Jan 2020, Version 1.0

## **Research Policy**

### **1. Preamble**

The current research policy aims to assist Davangere University (hereafter DU) accomplish distinction in research and give to community upliftment. The policy was prepared by IQAC of Davangere University and implemented after approval from Authorities.

### **2. Objectives**

This policy provides an overarching structure for all research and scholarly inquiries carried out at the DU.

The objectives of policy are as follows:

- i) To encourage research and innovation,
- ii) To ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research,
- iii) To incentivize the enhancement of intellectual capital, and
- iv) To facilitate national and international research collaborations and partnerships, MoUs linkages
- v) To encourage consultancy and industry-academic collaboration

### **3. Promotion of Research and Innovation**

The DU grants freedom to its students and faculty,

- (I) to carry out research in their chosen field, & interdisciplinary fields
- (II) to approach any funding agency to seek support for their research work, and
- (II) to report their findings and conclusions.

However, the DU reserves the right to

- (a) scrutinize the research proposal and the findings, and
- (b) make it available for constructive criticism of peers. DU also expects that researchers shall not violate established professional ethics, norms pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and other personal rights of human beings or to the infliction of injury or pain on animals.

The University shall try hard to create a conducive environment for research. The University to the extent feasible, support all research to be undertaken, by allocating the space, facilities and other resources for research programmes based on the scholarly and educational merits of the proposed research. It shall also provide development opportunities to researchers for writing research proposals and reports, publications, patent filing, etc.

#### **4. Identification of Thrust Areas**

Although the researchers have the freedom to choose their own topics of research, it is highly desirable to make research on sustainable socially relevant area. The University expects the different departments to have a thrust area of research, with a view to be focused in their efforts.

#### **5. Seed Money for Research**

To initiate research activities of its young faculty members University provides a startup grant of rupee 20000/- in their early career. The University shall also provide administrative and financial assistance to submit and defend research projects funded by external agencies.

#### **6. Research Projects**

A faculty member can submit a research project to government or non-government agency. Every research proposal has to be submitted for DU's approval through the IQAC which will maintain an up-to-date record of all submitted as well as sanctioned research projects. The University may monitor the progress, maintain its accounts and submit the utilization certificate in time to the funding agency for all funded research projects.

University encourages students and faculty members to report findings from a research project either as a publication or patent.

#### **7. Research Data**

Researchers must comply with the University's Policy on Research Data which provides more detailed guidance on this matter and definitions of Research Data and Open Data. Researchers should also comply with any applicable funder policies concerning research data management. Researchers must keep clear, detailed and accurate records of the research procedures they followed and the results obtained, including interim and final results.

It is the duty of the Principal Investigator in any research to comply with the requirements which apply to the research. This is applicable to all processing of personal data (which includes the obtaining, processing, sharing, storage and destruction of personal data).

Appropriate technical and organizational measures must be taken against unauthorized or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data in compliance with the Davangere University's IT policies, standards and guidance and with any contractual or other requirements which apply to the research. Information and resources on IT Policy.

Research data remains the property of the University when a researcher leaves the University. Where research data has been made open on conclusion of a project, the researcher in question may access it in the normal manner; if not, an access request will be required.

The University will retain and curate Research Data arising from research undertaken by Registered Students, Emeritus Professors, and Staff in the course of their employment (or for Staff who are not employees, in the course of their duties for the University), in accordance with terms and conditions of funders, good practice guidance, contractual obligations and the University's policies.

### **8. Publication of Papers in Journals**

Faculty members shall be expected to publish their research in refereed national and international journals. Except in case of Indian languages, it is expected that the journals are indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web of Knowledge.

In order to improve quality of research publications, University shall provide incentive for all such publications that appear in SCOPUS and/or Web of Knowledge indexed journal.

### **9. Consultancy and sponsored research**

Davangere University encourages its faculty to take up sponsored research and consultancy assignments and projects. All consultancy activities will be governed by statutes a updated time to time (Refer CP of DU). Any intellectual property arising out of sponsored research will be owned jointly by the University and the sponsor/ investor.

### **10. Patent and IPR**

The University encourages its research community to file for patents arising out of their work for which a separate statute is already available (DU IPR Policy). The application for filing patent will have to be submitted to DU's Intellectual Property Rights Cell for scrutiny.

Expenses for filing patent, sharing of revenue in case a patent is commercialized shall be done as per statutory provisions. The University shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among students, faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time.

### **11. Collaborative National & International Research**

University encourages its faculty members to conduct collaborative research with their peers from reputed national and international Universities and Institutions. The University may also sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with prominent Universities and Research Institutions, for conducting joint research in the areas of common interest.

## **12. Research Misconduct**

Research misconduct is defined as any fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in the reporting results of research. Research misconduct does not include an honest error or difference of opinion, authorship dispute that does not involve plagiarism, and violations of other University policies (e.g., sexual harassment policy). The University believes that the occurrence of misconduct is a threat to the basic principles of research. The University shall put in place a mechanism for taking action on all allegations of misconduct, and shall ensure that the procedures for the inquiry, investigation and adjudication of any misconduct are well defined and just for all parties involved.

## **13. Code of conduct**

The Code of Conduct for responsible Research provides standards of good practice to guide/ individuals working on all research, including non-clinical research, in line with the principles of integrity, accountability, independence/impartiality, respect and professional commitment described in University Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. This is applicable to all staff members involved in research, as well as to collaborators in spirit and principles, the Code of Conduct for responsible Research (the Code) articulates university responsibility to adhere to its research standards, and to:

Ensure that partner institutions have Codes of Conduct in place that uphold principles in line with the Code;

Seek advice and assistance as appropriate from normal management channels, the Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics (CRE), the Ethics Review Committee (ERC), and or the Office of the Legal Counsel (LEG) as applicable;

Report any suspicious of non-adherence to the Code to supervisors for action, or to the Integrity hotline as applicable; and

Take action to address suspicions of wrongdoing including with collaborators and partner institutions, such as terminating contractual engagements, or withdrawing from publication projects.

## **14. Code of Ethics**

As stated in the University Code of Ethics, responsible ethical conduct is required in all aspects of research and all research is required to go through the appropriate ethics review. The University's research ethics review requirements are designed to support researchers in this, and are described below. Principal Investigators must self-assess proposed research and ensure that it is submitted to the correct review process.

An appropriate ethics review independent of the research team and completion of study appropriate due diligence processes is required for all University research where:

- People are involved as data sources (e.g. as interviewees), or as the subject of the research. This includes any research where people's data are collected or analysed, or where blood, tissue or other biological samples are collected, stored or analysed. This includes secondary data analysis and analysis of anonymised data sets;
  - The research presents a significant risk to the environment, society or the reputation of the University;
  - The research presents a risk to the commercial interests of another organisation or deals with confidential or commercially sensitive information belonging to a third party;
  - The research presents other material ethical concerns.
1. All animal research engaged in by Researchers must be notified to the Director of the Biomedical Services Unit and reviewed by the appropriate committee like RAC and IEC.
  2. Where research does not involve people, their data or biological samples, presents no significant risks, does not involve animals or confidential information of third parties and the Funder does not require it, it may be appropriate and sufficient for the Principal Investigator to review the ethics of the project. In these circumstances, Principal Investigators must report to the appropriate University Research Ethics Committee that no independent ethical review is required, but they may still request a review from the appropriate University's Research Ethics Committee if they feel that it would be beneficial, and should do so where, in their view, a project raises material ethical issues as per the CPEC/ICMR/ central and state government guidelines.
  3. No research project (or activity within a research project) may be conducted unless and until the project (or that activity) has been granted a favorable ethics opinion by the appropriate body or person. Failure to obtain a favorable ethics review from the appropriate review body or person, or any breach of the conditions of the ethics decision will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure outlined in clause 13 below and will be deemed a breach of this Code.
  4. Research must be conducted as described in the application for ethics review, and as granted a favourable ethics review by the relevant ethics committee. Researchers should not deviate in any substantive way from the details of the project as stated in

the application (either the initial application or subsequent amendments) which has been granted a favourable ethical approval by the relevant ethics committee, except where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard(s) to participants.

## **15. Integrity and Accountability**

Davangere University states that research integrity includes:

- The use of honest and verifiable methods in proposing, performing, and evaluating research.
- Reporting research results with particular attention to adherence to rules, regulations, and guidelines as per the standard Protocols (Ref. ).

Policies and Quality Assurance is devoted to the examination and critical analysis of systems for maximizing integrity in the conduct of research. It provides an interdisciplinary, international forum for the development of new procedures, standards and policies to encourage the ethical conduct of research for enhancing the validity of research results. Accountability in Research seeks to serve a broad range of scientists and administrators in academia, industry and government. While relevant to any discipline, the journal focuses in particular on microbiology, biotechnology, chemistry, medicine, pharmacology, toxicology, pathology, environmental science, and clinical trials should be taken care.

## **16. Publications**

Academic research involves many coordinated steps and processes – appropriate study design, study execution, data collection, data analysis, and finally publication. While going through these steps and culminating in a publication can be an exhilarating experience, one should be aware of ethical code of conduct that binds researchers at every stage. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is an international forum for editors and publishers of peer-reviewed journals that provide the “code of conduct” and “best practice guidelines” that define publication ethics and advises editors on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. In their editorial, they introduce concepts collectively called “publication ethics” including statutory and ethics approval, informed consent, data manipulation and research fraud, plagiarism, simultaneous submission, duplicate publication, self-citation, consent to reproduce published material, ethics of authorship, and conflicts of interest followed by repercussions and consequences one may face if such misconduct is detected (Ref).

## **17. Conflict of Interest (CoI):**

Researchers in the exercise of their functions should not be constrained to reach any particular

conclusion or to make any particular recommendations. However, in some situations a Researcher may find him/herself in a position where there is an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, which could influence the Researcher in reaching a particular conclusion. Researchers in the exercise of their functions should not be constrained to reach any particular conclusion or to make any particular recommendations. However, in some situations a Researcher may find him/herself in a position where there is an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, which could influence the Researcher in reaching a particular conclusion. A Researcher must comply with any direction made by the University in relation to a personal conflict of interest in research.


### **18. Research involving animals/ microorganisms**

The University uses animals in biomedical research programmes only where replacement alternatives are not available and where such works is fundamental to advancement in understanding that will prevent suffering, protect and prolong human and/or animal life and help preserve animals in their natural environment. It is committed to the development of techniques not involving animals wherever possible. The University takes its responsibility towards the animals it needs for research seriously. The University promotes the highest standards of animal care, husbandry and welfare, under close veterinary supervision. It has a unit with the most up to date equipment available and animals are cared for by a team of highly skilled and dedicated individuals.

Researchers undertaking animal research must hold a personal licence from the Home Office, and ensure that there is a Home Office project licence in place covering all procedures that they undertake. Such research must be ethically reviewed by the local AWERB on behalf of the establishment licence holder. Review by the local AWERB ensures that there are no possible alternatives to the use of animals and that studies are carried out to the highest standards of welfare and care, following the 3Rs principle of "replacement", "reduction" and "refinement". The 3Rs are a widely accepted ethical framework for conducting scientific experiments using animals humanely. All Researchers undertaking research involving animals must comply with the terms of the Home Office Licence upon which they are relying to undertake the research; whether it be their own personal licence or otherwise.

The University is committed to the provision of the appropriate training in order to ensure that any research involving animals is of the highest quality and the welfare of the animals is paramount at all times.

  
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Davangere University  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR**  
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