

KNUST POLICY 0003

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi

Research POLICY



RESEARCH POLICY



KWAME NKUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI-GHANA
**QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
PLANNING UNIT**

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FORWARD

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi has a mission to advance knowledge in science and technology through creating an environment for undertaking relevant research, quality teaching, entrepreneurship training and community engagement to improve the quality of life. In order to achieve this mission, there is the need to have Research Policy.

The rationale of this policy is to provide framework for effective, efficient and ethical conduct of research.

The University is grateful to all those who ensured the initiation, development and approval of this Policy.

PROFESSOR K. OBIRI-DANSO

VICE-CHANCELLOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As part of the strategic planning mandate of the Quality Assurance and Planning Unit (QAPU), university policies are initiated and proposed for approval by the Academic Board. The Unit therefore, initiated Research Policy which was approved by the Academic Board.

The QAPU is grateful to Prof. Eric Woode's committee for the draft of this Policy. We are equally indebted to all staff who helped to edit and review it.

Lastly, we wish to appreciate the contribution of all staff of this University who contributed in several ways for the development and approval of this Policy.

PROF. CHRISTIAN AGYARE

HEAD, QAPU

AUGUST, 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) recognizes and continues to create the right environment to promote research and scholarship that is informed by the principles of honesty, integrity, trust, accountability and collegiality. The University has chosen to be research-driven by prioritising scientific research for the benefit the community it serves. The university seeks to distinguish itself by the quality of its research and by the way teaching is informed by research.

As a research-driven KNUST would be able to:

1. Make significant contribution to Ghana's research and innovation agenda;
2. Play a key role nationally and internationally towards research-informed sustainable development;
3. Build capacity of its staff and students to undertake cutting-edge research that meets global standards; and
4. Ensure that all research at the University meets the requirements of accepted good governance devoid of conflict of interest;

By adopting this policy, KNUST expresses its commitment to:

1. Emphasize the central role of research in our academic work
2. Establish a framework that encourages, coordinates and manages the planning and execution of research activities at the level of central management as well as within individual colleges, faculties, departments, centres and institutes;
3. Adhere to the basic principles of research ethics as they apply to the different disciplines, to continually adapt them to new circumstances and to ensure that they are applied consistently;
4. Ensure the importance of academic integrity and the pursuit of quality in all research;

5. Organise and focus the university's research activities on chosen themes within colleges, faculties, departments, research centres and institutes, to ensure the University leverages on its strengths and competitive advantages.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL ACADEMIC STAFF

KNUST expects that targets would be set for all academic staff who would be assessed at the end of each academic year. The targets are to ensure all academic staff include the following as part of their activities in the university:

1. Research is given a high priority as part of their academic work;
2. Research activities are undertaken to deliver quality research outputs that would guide academic staff involvement in service delivery to community;
3. Ensure continuous link between research and teaching;
4. Academic staff are well informed about new research techniques and the state of research outputs and research topics of relevance to their various fields of study;
5. Researchers take cognisance of the research policies and programmes of the various statutory research institutes, boards and international institutions that are relevant to Ghana and/or the chosen focus areas of the University, and to make use of the opportunities that are provided by such plans and programmes;
6. Researchers should seek and maintain collaborations with other researchers in Ghana and other countries by creating and participating in research networks;
7. Researchers should seek funds from the university and other funding agencies and organizations for the conduct of research at the University in order to establish a sustainable financial basis for research;

8. Academic staff should provide effective study assistance in accordance with the University's rules and guidelines for postgraduate study;
9. Researchers must refer to the University's policy on contract research, and endeavour to fulfil the accompanying contractual obligations conscientiously;
10. Intellectual property and expertise should be handled according to the University's policies in order to take advantage of opportunities for the commercialisation of research;
11. Participate in appropriate mentoring programmes to strengthen the capacity of other researchers;
12. Researchers need to publicise research outputs by means of lectures at national and international subject conferences, and as publications in scientific journals or other media;
13. Researchers must seek to enhance the reputation of the University by the quality of their research work and publication.

3. EXPECTATIONS OF COLLEGES, FACULTIES, DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology expects all Colleges, Faculties, Departments, Institutes and Centres to undertake the following:

1. Take the necessary organisational measures to simplify the planning, execution and management of research activities, in order to lay a firm and justifiable foundation for controlling such activities, including maintaining standards of performance;
2. Put in the right measures to encourage academic staff to initiate and develop multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities in addition to their individual activities;

3. Continuously explore and pay special attention to the possibilities and opportunities that multi-, inter – and transdisciplinary research present as a means of addressing real-world challenges;
4. Structure undergraduate and postgraduate courses in a way that promotes and fosters interest in research and to give researchers the opportunity to convey their new knowledge from research findings to students through lectures and supervision;
5. Record current and past research grants and projects, and new research qualifications on a regular basis, in collaboration with the Office of Grants and Research (OGR), in order to acquire a clear picture of the University’s research profile;
6. Ensure the optimal coordination of research by eliminating unnecessary overlaps and duplications of research activities between staff at all levels;
7. Pursue connections with organisations that could help to identify relevant research problems, generate possible financial support for research, make practical use of research results, and/or exploit them commercially in accordance with the University’s policy on Intellectual Property.

4. OPEN ACCESS

The University seeks to promote and underscore the importance of openness in research –i.e. freedom of access by all interested persons to the underlying data, to the analytical processes and software whenever possible, and to the final outcomes of research. This helps to facilitate replication of the research activity and secondary analyses of data.

5. RESEARCH DISSEMINATION AND UPTAKE

Research Uptake programmes should be a key component of all research activities by the academic staff. Uptake plans must be developed as

part of the research proposals and must be undertaken to determine the research output.

Well-developed dissemination plans should be reviewed for each research activity at the commencement of the research and evaluated at the close of the research.

6. KNUST'S UNDERTAKING

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in ensuring the intent of this policy is fully realized, makes the following undertaking:

1. Appointments and Promotions

To place a high premium on research initiative, status and capability when making appointments and promotions, in addition to other abilities such as teaching.

2. Recognising Excellence

To give suitable acknowledgement to staff who conduct research work of high quality on a continuous basis.

3. Research Support Services

- a. To resource and facilitate the Office of Grants and Research and other support services to have in place mechanisms that enable academic staff to function effectively and efficiently to deliver on their mandate;
- b. To supply academic staff with the required laboratory facilities, research assistance and other infrastructure necessary for the execution of their research;
- c. To give special attention to the needs of subject disciplines that are totally dependent on literature and other written sources for their research;

- d. To make bursaries or other financial support available to students at the master's and doctoral levels, and to post-doctoral fellows;
- e. To give academic staff the opportunity of improving their research capabilities and increasing the impact of their research by granting research leave and providing financial support for the purpose of attending local or international subject meetings and strengthening research connections;
- f. To enable eminent researchers from elsewhere to pay the University shorter or longer visits with the purpose of promoting research at the University;
- g. To provide timely services to support research at the university;
- h. To make special efforts to provide sources for the optimal development of the capacity of its academic staff, particularly young researchers, through suitable funding, training and mentoring programmes;
- i. To develop the diversity profiles of the University's lecturers/ researchers to further the research profile of the University and to promote research at the institution;

4. Research Units

- 5. To promote the establishment of research institutes, centres, units and groups as and when the need for such entities are justified;**

6. Research governance

- a. To adhere to the highest standards of ethics and accountability by ensuring available funds are awarded and managed in a discerning manner and research projects that are considered for financial support meet the relevant criteria of quality and feasibility;

- b. To continuously revise and update the policy and management plans for research;
- c. To ensure central analytical facilities are managed effectively;
- d. To provide for the evaluation of research at the University regularly in terms of its extent, quality and impact; and
- e. To ensure that reports on research activities are given on a regular basis.

7. Research Communication

The University will use its structures such as the University Relations Office to widely communicate research outputs from its staff and students.

8. Links with national and international partners

- a. KNUST will strengthen existing partnerships, develop and maintain relationships with organisations (nationally and internationally) that are important for the promotion of research at the University;
- b. KNUST will maintain effective collaborations with research institutes in the country to ensure effective collaborative research to address Ghana's developmental challenges;
- c. KNUST will make an extra effort to strengthen links with the private sector and industry to know the research needs and human resource capacity needs of industry and jointly work at filling the gaps identified.

7. CONCLUSION

The KNUST research policy will encourage and nurture a research culture in which the academic freedom of all researchers is respected and protected, and in which research work and outputs are safeguarded against any form of beliefs and ideological expediency.

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