

# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH MBARARA



## Research and Innovation Policy 2023

JANUARY, 2023

# 1. Introduction

The Archdiocese of Mbarara (AoM) started a university as part of its mission and mandate to establish educational institutions of different levels to share in the salvific ministry of Christ by being the salt and light to the world. The founders coined the name: University of Saint Joseph Mbarara (USJM), for the university from St. Joseph, foster father to Jesus and the patron Saint of the pioneer St. Joseph Technical School, whose tradition of hard workmanship and community responsive education, USJM is to uphold.

The personal qualities and values of St. Joseph, the worker, such as integrity, hardworking, commitment, are behind this tradition, and the University will uphold them. USJM aims at total orientation and focus on tertiary education that meets community needs and engineers' socioeconomic transformation. It delivers relevant, affordable, high quality, inclusive and community-responsive university education. The University of Saint Joseph Mbarara derives its vision and mission from the Christian understanding of the integral growth of a person.

- i. **Vision:** A leading center for integrated community responsive university education.
- ii. **Mission:** To provide holistic education for sustainable development.
- iii. **Motto:** Foster Excellence and Integrity (***Praestantia et Integritate Foveat***)

- iv. **Slogan:** For and With the Community
- v. **Philosophy:** Community-Responsive and Engaged university education
- vi. **Core Values**
  - a. God fearing,
  - b. Integrity,
  - c. Excellence,
  - d. Accountability,
  - e. Community responsiveness
- vii. **Objectives:**
  - a. To provide relevant university education.
  - b. To promote research and innovation among stakeholders.
  - c. To nurture citizens of integrity and sense of common good.
  - d. To nurture students with demand-oriented skills.
  - e. To promote best practices in institutional governance.
  - f. To promote pastoral mission of the church

It is USJM commitment to encourage the development of each individual through education at all levels, stressing in particular the creation/promotion of an environment where intellectual and moral values are priorities. Since the person is at the center of all growth and development, both at individual and societal levels, all members of the community respect each other in an attempt to create an environment of

openness and trust. The University is committed to promoting justice, respect, solidarity, human rights, equality, and environmental protection, both in its own community and society in general. The University of Saint Joseph Mbarara (USJM) is dedicated to advancing knowledge and innovation through research that addresses community needs and contributes to sustainable development. This policy outlines the framework for promoting, supporting, and managing research and innovation activities at USJM.

## **2. Policy Objectives**

- i. Foster a culture of research and innovation across all disciplines.
- ii. Establish a dedicated research and innovation hub.
- iii. Promote interdisciplinary research projects.
- iv. Enhance partnerships with industry, government agencies, and international organizations.
- v. Encourage applied research that addresses local challenges.
- vi. Support the dissemination and commercialization of research outputs.

### 3. Governance Structure

- i. **Research and Innovation Committee (RIC):** A high-level committee responsible for overseeing all research and innovation activities.
- ii. **Director of Research and Innovation (DRI):** Leads the Research and Innovation Hub and coordinates research initiatives.
- iii. **Faculty Research Coordinators (FRC):** Representatives from each faculty to support and manage research activities within their disciplines.

### 4. Research and Innovation Hub

- i. **Facilities:** The hub will be equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, libraries, and collaborative workspaces.
- ii. **Resources:** Access to advanced research tools, databases, and funding opportunities.
- iii. **Support Services:** Assistance with grant applications, project management, and intellectual property rights.

## 5. Funding and Partnerships

- i. **Internal Funding:** Allocation of University funds to support seed grants, pilot projects, and student research.
- ii. **External Funding:** Pursue grants and sponsorships from government agencies, industry partners, and international organizations.
- iii. **Partnerships:** Establish strategic alliances with industry, academic institutions, and research organizations.

## 6. Research Priorities

- i. **Interdisciplinary Research:** Promote collaborative projects that integrate multiple disciplines.
- ii. **Applied Research:** Focus on practical solutions to local and regional challenges.
- iii. **Sustainable Development:** Prioritize research that contributes to environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development.

## 7. Research Output and Dissemination

- i. **Publications:** Encourage faculty and students to publish in high-impact journals and present at conferences.
- ii. **Showcasing Research:** Create a dedicated section on the University website to showcase research projects, publications, and innovations.
- iii. **Annual Research Week:** Organize events to highlight research achievements and foster knowledge exchange.

## 8. Innovation and Commercialization

- i. **Innovation Competitions:** Host competitions to encourage creative solutions and entrepreneurial ventures.
- ii. **Industry Collaboration:** Facilitate partnerships with businesses to translate research into marketable products and services.
- iii. **Technology Transfer:** Support the commercialization of research outputs through patents, licensing, and startup incubation.

## 9. Capacity Building

- i. **Professional Development:** Provide workshops and training for faculty and students on research methodologies, grant writing, and project management.
- ii. **Mentoring Programs:** Establish mentorship opportunities for junior faculty and students to enhance their research skills.
- iii. **Research Attachments:** Facilitate staff exchange and research attachments with other universities and research institutions.

## 10. Quality Assurance and Ethics

- i. **Ethical Standards:** Ensure all research complies with ethical guidelines and standards.
- ii. **Regular Reviews:** Conduct periodic reviews of research programs and projects to ensure quality and relevance.
- iii. **Accreditation:** Pursue and maintain accreditation for research programs to uphold academic excellence.

## 11. Monitoring and Evaluation

- i. **Performance Indicators:** Establish metrics to assess research productivity, impact, and quality.
- ii. **Annual Reports:** Require regular reporting from all research units to monitor progress and outcomes.
- iii. **Continuous Improvement:** Use evaluation results to refine policies, strategies, and support mechanisms.

## 12. Marketing and Communication

- i. **Website:** Develop a dedicated section on the University website to showcase research projects, publications, and innovations.
- ii. **Multimedia Content:** Create videos, infographics, and case studies to communicate the impact of research initiatives.
- iii. **Research Expos:** Organize expos, innovation competitions, and industry partnerships to foster collaboration and commercialization opportunities.

## 13. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains relevant and effective in promoting research and innovation at USJM.

### Implementation Timeline

- i. **Year 1:** Establish the Research and Innovation Hub, form the Research and Innovation Committee, and appoint the Director of Research and Innovation.
- ii. **Year 2:** Launch seed grant programs, initiate interdisciplinary research projects, and organize the first Annual Research Week.
- iii. **Year 3:** Expand industry partnerships, facilitate technology transfer activities, and enhance marketing efforts.
- iv. **Year 4:** Review and refine research priorities, increase external funding, and strengthen capacity-building programs.
- v. **Year 5:** Evaluate policy effectiveness, celebrate research milestones, and set new strategic goals for the next planning period.

## 14. Amendment of The Manual

The Manual, subject to amendment from time to time by relevant authority, was approved by University of Saint Joseph Mbarara Governing Council on the ..... day of.....



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