



AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO EKITI (ABUAD)

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH POLICY

Effective Date: 01 January 2020

Last Date of Review: 01 January 2022

Due for Review: 01 January 2024

1. PURPOSE

ABUAD is institutionally committed to advancing the generation and transfer of highest-quality fundamental and applied research across all disciplines for the development of the society at large. This policy establishes the framework for fostering excellence in research that traverses or transcends disciplinary boundaries and which synthesise or integrate methods and knowledge from multiple disciplinary domains.

Our Interdisciplinary Research policy has been designed to ensure equitable assessment, evaluation and support of interdisciplinary research at ABUAD or any of the centers or institutions within the ABUAD Community, in a manner that advances the research missions of the University.

2. DEFINITIONS

- **ABUAD Community:** All ABUAD employees and students; as well as researchers in ABUAD's network of centers, institutions and partnerships who participate in research and development work and who receive funding directly or through research collaboration funded by ABUAD.
- **Collaborative Research:** Research conducted by any member of the ABUAD community in collaboration with any local or international institution or organization
- **Interdisciplinary Research:** Research that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge. It can be done by teams or by individuals.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

- A. All Colleges, Directorates and Units at ABUAD shall take steps to advance the conceptualization, development, and implementation of Interdisciplinary Research programs. In so doing, all members of the ABUAD Community shall specifically:
- (i) Identify and support the highest quality research irrespective of the disciplinary grounding, approach or methodology of that research
 - (ii) Ensure that excellence in interdisciplinary research is appropriately recognised in research assessment measures
 - (iii) Provide funding opportunities for researchers to collaborate and explore interdisciplinary approaches to research and to engage in emerging fields
 - (iv) Assess all research on a fair and equal basis, including proposals and outputs involving interdisciplinary and collaborative research

- (v) Ensure that peer review and assessment processes for research, including expertise of assessors, Thesis/Dissertation Examination Committee, College of Expert (CoE) members, Research Evaluation Committee (REC) members, and EI Panel members represent the diverse range of proposals and submissions received including those which are interdisciplinary
- (vi) Work to remove administrative barriers to collaboration between universities, and between universities and end users to facilitate the conduct of interdisciplinary research.
- (vii) In planning new initiatives, consider the effect of requirements on researchers involved in interdisciplinary research.

B. To measure and monitor the success of the foregoing objectives, all Colleges, Directorates and Units at ABUAD shall:

- (i) Maintain engagement with issues that influence operating environment including emerging priorities, the needs of stakeholders, as well as global trends and best practice with regard to interdisciplinary research
- (ii) Undertake continuous improvement through analysis and self-assessment to ensure that funding opportunities and research evaluation systems reflect world standards, are achieving their aims and are meeting the needs of University stakeholders
- (iii) Monitor and periodically review policies and procedures relating to interdisciplinary research to ensure they are commensurate with sector expectations, that they are being implemented as specified, and that that all programs are achieving their aims
- (iv) Establish special and dedicated promotion procedures and processes to recognize faculty members with a record of excellence in conducting interdisciplinary research.
- (v) Implement specific prizes, awards, grants, and incentives to recognize ABUAD Community members that epitomize highest level of success in Interdisciplinary Research.

4. PROCEDURE FOR GRIEVANCES

Every effort should be made to resolve grievances informally between an aggrieved stakeholder and the concerned unit concerning matters covered by this policy. When serious issues cannot be resolved informally, especially in cases of an alleged violation of this policy, the complainant may seek a resolution from the Vice Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor may task Committee to review the case. The jurisdictional directives of the committee include:

- Determine whether proper university procedures have been followed;
- Review and make recommendations in relation to appeal and grievances;
- Communicate its decision to the complainant.

After hearing the case, the committee will submit its recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor.

The decision of the Vice Chancellor is final.

5. COMMUNITY THAT MUST KNOW THIS POLICY

University Management, Provosts, Program Coordinators, Directors, Faculty, Students.