



St. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Established in 1844

Special Heritage Status awarded by UGC

Reaccredited with A⁺ Grade by NAAC & College with Potential for Excellence

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 002, S.INDIA

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POLICY DOCUMENT ON PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

Preamble

The transmission of knowledge and conduct of scholarly inquiry are central and complementary functions of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). They can be carried out effectively only if teachers and researchers are guaranteed academic freedom and accept corresponding responsibilities. Reputation of HEIs depends on two cardinal outcomes – the *research* outcome and the *graduation* outcome - both of which are underpinned by the core values of scholarship, innovation and research productivity. The research outcome and the graduation outcome reflect on the calibre of the torch bearers (alumni) of the institution in the work places and research arena. The success of the HEIs in attaining this milestone is greatly contingent upon alignment of the dynamics of the teaching-learning process towards the two outcomes.

St Joseph's College's central functions of teaching-learning are complemented by research, which depends upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, and publication are given the fullest protection. This policy document presents the broad principles that guide the research enterprise at St Joseph's College and assure the integrity of scholarly inquiry that aims at helping St Joseph's faculty and scholars achieve excellence and contribute to the societal development.

Principles

The Academic Council of St Joseph's College hereby affirms the following principles concerning research:

- Individual scholars should be free to select the subject matter of their research, to seek support from any source for their work, and to form their own findings and conclusions.
- These findings and conclusions should be available for scrutiny and criticism as required by the policy of the college on openness in research.
- Research procedures should not violate established professional ethics pertaining to the personal rights of human beings (such as health, safety and privacy).
- The College fosters an environment conducive to research, yet may not be able to support all research demands because of limited resources. However, it shall allocate space, facilities, funds, and other resources for research programs based on the scholarly merits of the proposed research.
- The College shall also provide opportunities to researchers for writing research proposals and reports, publications, patent filing, *etc.*
- The principle of freedom of access by all interested persons to the underlying data, processes, and to the final results of research is one of overriding importance.



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The above principles circumscribe St Joseph's College's role with respect to research at all levels – Bachelors to Ph D as well as research supported with extramural funding. They reinforce the individual researcher's personal responsibility to assure that the conduct of research, the sources of funding for that research, and its perceived outcomes are consistent with the individual researcher's judgment and conscience.

Objectives of the Policy

This policy provides a broad framework to guide research and integrity of scholarly inquiry at St Joseph's College. The objectives of policy are the following:

- to promote research, innovation and intellectual capital,
- to incentivise the generation of intellectual capital,
- to integrate teaching and research,
- to foster socially relevant research aligned to human values and scholarship,
- to promote multidisciplinary research - both basic as well as applied areas of sciences and humanities,
- to network with larger community; viz. industries, universities, and other institutions of higher learning, and
- to ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research.

Promotion of Research

The College believes that researchers are free to choose the subject of their research, to seek support from any funding source for their research work, and to report their findings and conclusions. However, the research shall be available for scrutiny to the faculty/advisor concerned and constructive criticism of the peers. The following steps shall be taken to promote research at St Joseph's College.

- For writing a project as well as to initiate the research process, St Joseph's College pledges its infrastructure – both human and physical. Principal Investigators of funded projects will be rewarded with cash incentives.
- St Joseph's College accords high priority recognizing the outcomes of research (Ph.D. Degree, publication, patent, and other recognitions). Publications in peer-reviewed / indexed Journals as well as those presentations made in Conferences / Seminars / Symposia if that result in ISBN / ISSN numbered proceedings attract cash incentives.
- Research Advisors whose scholar is successful with the Ph.D. degree and two International publications (with Thompson Reuters *IF*) can claim cash incentive.
- The Shift-II faculty who comes up with a successful research proposal will be given seed money for carrying out the research project.



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Thrust Areas

Although researchers have the freedom to choose their own topics of research, it is highly desirable to make research socially relevant. St Joseph's College expects the various Schools, Centres and Departments to identify the trends for research.

Research at UG & PG Levels

Inclusion of research component in the curriculum is a way of promoting creativity among the undergraduates and postgraduates. Accordingly, group Research Project and individual Research Project are included in the final year curricula of the Bachelors and Masters programme respectively. Upon submission of the dissertation, *viva voce* is conducted on the dissertation.

M Phil & Ph D Programmes

St Joseph's College shall boost doctoral and M Phil research and earmark appropriate budget for scholarship and research facilities. It shall also encourage the scholars to build bridges with R & D organizations. The College shall continue to encourage faculty and researchers to get funding (extramural) as a matching share for the research purpose to augment quality in research output. Researchers would be encouraged to publish and patent their research findings. It is worth mentioning here that a journal publication is a prerequisite for submission of M Phil dissertation.

Minor & Major Research Projects

Research projects supported by Government agencies as well as sponsored extramurally form an important resource for augmenting infrastructure and professional recognition of the faculty and therefore the College. The institution has been encouraging the faculty to conduct research as a means of augmenting and complementing teaching. The College's Committee on Research would identify a list of funding agencies – government as well as industry, and develop a scheme for providing financial assistance in the form of seed money to conceive research ideas and realize the project. For this purpose, every year the College earmarks financial budget. The Minor Research Project Scheme helps young faculty prepare the proposal, conduct research and begin publishing. It also assists them in preparing proposals for major research projects.

Campus Publications

Research and its publication are critical for the effectiveness of the teaching-learning functions of the institution. RETELL, originally an in-house multi-disciplinary publication, has evolved into a multi-disciplinary journal. Over the years it has evolved into a multi-disciplinary journal. However, the College shall take steps towards publishing School-wise / discipline-wise journals, and eventually make them among the UGC-recognized journals. With the advent of the UGC's Performance Appraisals



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academic and research output by faculty and scholars of the College assumes great significance to the individuals concerned and the institution.

Patent and IPR

The College would strengthen innovation in research leading to filing of patents for which all technical and financial support would be extended. If any innovation is accomplished, the institution shall encourage the researchers to patent it. The College bears all expenditure for filing application for the patent. If the patent is commercialized the earning is to be shared between researcher and the College on an 80:20 basis. The College shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time.

Centres of Excellence

The College would create an environment for each department wherein scholars work in a specific research area. This will facilitate specific research activities such that the unit will progressively evolve into a Centre of Excellence in due course for the specialized thrust area.



Principal