



Scientific Research Policy

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Policy Title and Owner

Policy Title:

Scientific Research Policy

Policy Owner:

Scientific Affairs Department - Assistant President for Scientific Affairs - University Presidency

Target Audience:

Faculty members, researchers, postgraduate students, research centers, and participants in research projects and graduation research within the university.

Scope of Application:

All university formations

Responsible Entity and Implementation Date

Responsible Entity for Implementation and Follow-up:

- Assistant President for Scientific Affairs
- Dean of each college
- Scientific Affairs Divisions

Implementation Date:

Official Website:

<https://alayen.edu.iq/>

Introduction and Vision

Introduction:

Al-Ayen Iraqi University seeks to enhance an academic environment that stimulates research and innovation, supports knowledge production, and contributes to solving societal problems. This policy aims to establish the organizational and procedural framework that governs scientific research and provides it with support, governance, and development in line with academic quality standards and professional ethics.

Vision:

Achieving regional and global scientific and research leadership through authentic and impactful knowledge production that serves society and contributes to sustainable development.

Mission and Objectives



Mission:

Enhancing the scientific research system at the university by supporting researchers, establishing principles of scientific integrity, encouraging innovation and rigorous publishing, and building strategic local and international research partnerships.

Objectives:

- ◆ Support and encourage innovative scientific research in all academic disciplines.
- ◆ Provide a stimulating and integrated research environment that ensures quality scientific output.
- ◆ Establish high ethical standards in conducting and publishing research.
- ◆ Encourage publishing in internationally indexed peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- ◆ Organize intellectual property rights resulting from research and patents.
- ◆ Expand the scope of research cooperation between the university and local and international entities.

Governance and Organizational Structure

Policy Provisions:

First: Governance and Organizational Structure

- **Central Committee for Scientific Research:**

The highest regulatory authority for setting policies and approving strategic projects. The Scientific Assistant to the University President is at the head of the organizational structure as the policy owner and the first responsible for its implementation. It undertakes setting general strategies and supervising all scientific research activities at the university and includes in its membership the deans of colleges and representatives of research units.

- **College Council:**

The direct executive and supervisory body, headed by the Dean and Scientific Assistant Dean.

- **Specialized Research Centers:**

Execute research projects and manage research teams by specialization.

- **Scientific Publishing and Patents Unit:**

Specialized in documenting research, encouraging publishing, and following up on intellectual property rights registration.

- **Research Committees in Colleges:**

Specialized Supporting Committees

- **Specialized Supporting Committees**

◆ Ethics in Scientific Research Committee

◆ Research Support and Funding Committee

◆ Proposal Evaluation Committee

◆ Scientific Publishing Committee

◆ Innovation and Technology Transfer Committee

◆ Research Partnerships Committee

◆ Scientific Integrity Committee

◆ Data Management Committee

◆ Sustainability Committee

◆ Research Capacity Building Committee

Second: Sub-Policies Derived from the Scientific Research Policy



1. Ethics in Scientific Research Policy

- Commitment to participants' rights and data confidentiality.
- Review of projects by the Ethics in Scientific Research Committee.
- Prevention of conflicts of interest and ensuring integrity in data collection and analysis.

2. Scientific Publishing and Patents Policy

- Encourage publishing in indexed databases such as Scopus and ISI.
- Allocate incentives for quality publishing.
- Protect researchers' rights and register patents with official entities.

3. Research Projects Support and Funding Policy

- Establish a research support fund with annual funding.
- Set criteria and mechanisms for submitting research proposals.

Sub-Policies (2)

4. Scientific Publishing Incentive Policy

Aims to encourage faculty members, researchers, and postgraduate students to publish in high-quality indexed peer-reviewed scientific journals, contributing to raising the university's academic ranking and increasing its scientific output.

5. Student Research Encouragement Policy

Encourages integrating students into the scientific research environment through:

- ◆ Supporting graduation projects with research character.
- ◆ Providing opportunities for students to participate in faculty research projects.
- ◆ Establishing student research forums and scientific competitions.
- ◆ Allocating internal funding for promising student research.

Sub-Policies (3)

Sub-Policies (4)

8. Research Data Management Policy

Regulates how to deal with scientific research data, including:

- Establishing mechanisms for storing, archiving, and sharing research data.
- Ensuring data confidentiality and protecting participants' privacy.
- Adopting FAIR standards (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) for data management.
- Requiring researchers to have data management plans when submitting research proposals.

9. Academic Integrity in Scientific Research Policy

Promotes scientific honesty values through:

- Establishing a clear code of conduct for researchers.
- Creating a committee to follow up on plagiarism or research manipulation cases.
- Applying disciplinary penalties in case of violating academic integrity principles.
- Training researchers on scientific writing principles and source documentation.

10. Sustainability in Scientific Research Policy

Seeks to direct research toward sustainable development goals through:

- Supporting research addressing vital environmental and societal issues.
- Encouraging environmentally friendly research practices.
- Stimulating multidisciplinary fields to serve sustainability issues.
- Preparing research reports showing the extent of projects' contribution to achieving the university's vision and its community.

Financial Incentive Mechanisms

Third: Incentive Mechanisms

- **Direct Financial Incentives:**

- ◆ Disbursing financial rewards for publishing in indexed journals within global databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, according to the journal's classification and its quartile position (Q1-Q4).
- ◆ Granting annual awards for the best research outputs.

Other Incentive Mechanisms

Funding and Support Mechanisms

Fourth: Funding and Support Mechanisms



• Internal Research Fund

The university allocates part of its annual budget to support scientific research by establishing an internal research grants fund. This fund includes:

- ◆ Funding mechanism: Allocating a percentage of university revenues (the Higher Education Council recommended allocating 3% of university revenues to support scientific research).
- ◆ Application process: Regular submission cycles (once or twice annually) with specific forms and regulations.
- ◆ Evaluation: Scientific arbitration committees evaluate proposals based on quality and importance criteria.

• External Funding

The university encourages its researchers to seek external research grants and funding through:

- ◆ Government grants affiliated with the Ministry of Higher Education.
- ◆ Local and international scientific organizations.
- ◆ Private sector.
- ◆ Cooperation agreements with research institutions and other universities.

Evaluation and Follow-up System

Fifth: Evaluation and Follow-up System

- Control and Follow-up Mechanisms:

1. Research Performance Indicators Monitoring

Periodicity: Regular data collection and monitoring (quarterly or semi-annually)

Monitored Indicators:

- ◆ Number of published research per college and department
- ◆ Classification and quality of journals published in
- ◆ Volume of internal and external research funding attracted
- ◆ Number of registered patents
- ◆ Number of participations in conferences and workshops

2. Annual Reports

The Scientific Research Unit prepares a comprehensive annual report presented to the University Council, including:

- ◆ Summary of research achievements, challenges, and opportunities
- ◆ Growth rate in scientific publishing and its classifications
- ◆ Most distinguished research and its awards
- ◆ Conference activities organized or participated in by faculty members

Continuous Improvement and Policy Validity

Sixth: Continuous Improvement

- **Periodic Review:**

Evaluating policy effectiveness every 3-5 years to ensure keeping pace with developments.

- **Feedback:**

Surveying the academic community's opinions on research support efficiency.

- **Development:**

Updating the policy based on annual reports and analyses.

Policy Validity:

This policy applies from (_____) and all colleges are committed to it without exception.

(The policy provisions are effective provided they do not conflict with the instructions, regulations, and laws in force of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research)

Final Approval:

Signature:

Date: