

Research Policy Document

PREAMBLE

RV College of Engineering, Bengaluru envisions 'Leadership in Quality Technical Education, Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation with focus on sustainable and inclusive technologies.' Research and scholarship is central to the mission of RVCE and is the cornerstone of creation of knowledge which is the foundation of all disciplines. RVCE is a reputed self-financing college for Higher Engineering Education in India. It is time to transform to an Institution for Education and Research and graduate to a Research University. RVCE is committed to create conducive ambience and establish infrastructure for interdisciplinary research and innovation. Globally, Higher Engineering Institutions are ranked based on their credentials in Research and Academics. Research credentials of an Institution brings visibility to the Institution at National and International levels. In Indian context NBA, NIRF, NAAC, Times Higher Education rankings, etc. attach higher weightage to research credentials in terms of number of quality publications, citations, patents, sponsored projects and consultancy. This Research Policy Document lays down strategies for creating an ecosystem for fostering Research in RVCE. This document provides guidelines and policies for motivating faculty to engage in quality publications, patents, sponsored research projects and consultancy. The document presents a general framework for the conduct of research.

1. Aims of the Research Policy

The aims of the Research Policy are to:

- Provide guidelines for the conduct of academic and sponsored research & consultancy
 - Prioritize areas of research for promoting interdisciplinary research and optimal utilization of research infrastructure
 - Identify and provide infrastructural support for research through Centres of Excellence and Departmental research centres
 - Support faculty to publish research findings in quality journals

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- Establish rational, transparent and merit based decision making systems for allocation of financial resources and infrastructural support for research
- Incentivize quality academic / sponsored research and consultancy
- Integrate Undergraduate research and Postgraduate research into the main research systems and provide necessary infrastructural and financial support

2. Constitution of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

A Research Advisory Committee with internal and external experts from National and International Universities and Research Organizations for effectively implementing the Research Policy guidelines for promoting research and consultancy.

3. Role and Responsibilities of RAC:

RAC is responsible for formulating guidelines and effective implementation concerning:

- Conduct of academic and sponsored research
- Identifying thrust areas for research in line with RVCE vision and mission
- Infrastructure development of research centres and Centres of Excellence
- Providing seed money to faculty and students for proof of concept, prototyping and product development
- Accountability of faculty undertaking sponsored research and consultancy
- Rewards, recognition and incentives for publications, sponsored / consultancy projects

4. Guidelines for conduct of Academic Research

Academic research includes Undergraduate research, Postgraduate research and Doctoral research by students, research scholars and faculty. Although students and faculty can exercise academic freedom in selecting the topics of research, it is advised to choose topics of current interest preferably aligning with the themes of the Centres of Excellence for research consolidation in focused areas. Faculty and students are advised to promote interdisciplinary research along with departmental core areas of research. Faculty guides shall guide the students for meaningful research and documentation maintaining international standards for productive use of the research





Findings. Heads of the departments shall consolidate the areas of research periodically for UG, PG and Doctoral research based on the departmental competency, growth of the department and promotion of the activities of Centres of Excellence in RVCE.

5. Collaboration with International Universities for joint research

RVCE shall enter into Memorandum of Understanding with Universities abroad preferably with QS ranking less than 1000, for joint publications, joint research proposals and other research promotion activities.

6. RVCE as an Institutional member of I-STEM

RVCE is an Institutional member of I-STEM, a national portal for providing visibility to the research infrastructure established at the member institutions through sponsored projects and institutional budget. RVCE shall update the research equipment, research software and systems data to the portal from time to time to explore internal revenue generation through testing and characterization.

7. Support System for Full-time Research Scholars

- Faculty guides shall accept Full-time research scholars for registration to M.Sc. (Engg) and Ph.D. Guiding part time research scholars shall be limited to guiding faculty of RVCE for Ph.D.
- Full time research scholars shall be paid Research Assistantship of Rs 25000/- to Rs 30,000/- per month to 25 scholars for a period of three years. Selection of full time research scholars with stipend shall be made through an open advertisement in newspapers. Such scholars shall work in RVCE in their respective departmental research centres or CoE and publish at least two international journal papers with Q1/Q2 quality index per year. Such research scholars shall undertake testing and characterization assignments at the respective research centre. The contractual agreement shall be reviewed once in six months. Continuation of the contract shall depend on the report of the review committee.



8. Fee for Availing Institutional Research Infrastructure

Part time research scholars registered through the research centres of RVCE under VTU, Belagavi shall pay Rs 25000/- annually for availing Institutional research resources. However, such scholars are exempted from testing and characterization charges subject to a maximum of five samples.

9. Strengthening Institutional R&D

All the departments of RVCE shall identify one faculty from each department as 'Departmental Research coordinator', with research credentials to assist the Institutional R&D activities. The Institutional Dean Research and Development shall evolve plan of action for fostering research aggressively at all the departments.

10. Budgetary Support for Research at Departmental and Institutional Levels

Departmental research centres are recognized by VTU, Belagavi for M.Sc. by research and Ph.D. studies. The Institution allocates recurring and non-recurring Research and Development budget annually for departmental research centres and interdisciplinary research centres for supporting research infrastructure development, conduction of research activities and for promoting interdisciplinary research.

11. Implementing Autonomy in conducting M.Sc. Engg (Research) and Ph.D. studies by VTU, Belagavi

RVCE shall apply for grant of autonomy in conducting M.Sc. Engg and Ph.D. in the research centres affiliated to VTU, Belagavi. The Institution shall uphold quality of academic research by instituting systems for monitoring the quality of research by enforcing web of science indexed quality journal publications with Q1/Q2 quality index and international standards in thesis.



12. Monitoring Doctoral Research

Department Research Centres shall constitute Research Monitoring committee for reviewing the progress of research undertaken by the M.Sc. (Engg.) and Ph.D. research scholars. The committee shall provide guidance for timely completion of M.Sc. (Engg) / Ph.D. ensuring quality of research and publications. Both part time and full time research scholars shall complete the research work within the stipulated time. Both research scholars and guides are answerable for timely completion of M.Sc. (Engg) and Ph.D.

13. Guidelines for publishing the research findings

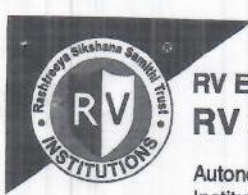
- Faculty and students shall publish in web of Science indexed peer reviewed journals (Q1 – Q4), preferably in journals with higher Quality index (Q1/Q2).
- Authors shall adhere to the Ethics of publishing related to authorship and plagiarism. In any such violation the authors are solely responsible and accountable.

14. Support System for Quality Journal Publications

IEEE offers open access programs designed to make it convenient for institutions to support and manage costs for authors and simplify the publishing process by paying for article processing charges (APC) in advance. IEEE has new flexible options for any size organization, designed to make it easy for institutions to assist their authors and demonstrate their support for open access.

RVCE has procured 'IEEE Open Access Solutions for Institutions for publishing 25 IEEE papers' for Rs. 25.0 Lakh, for one year (2023). Its validity is extendable up to end of 2024, in case APC is not utilized for 25 papers in one year. Depending on the utilization, RVCE intends to scale up this package for 50 papers. The faculty will be supported with APC for publishing IEEE journals which are Web of Science indexed with Q1 quality index.

Faculty with sponsored research projects are permitted to utilize the project grants for publishing journal papers. Faculty are advised to apply for grants from national / international agencies for publishing research articles with APC.



The Institution shall also support faculty for publishing in other than IEEE journals through APC, partly or fully, depending on the quality of the journal.

15. Submission of Research Proposals

Faculty at all cadre shall submit proposals for sponsored projects in their areas of competence and Institutional priority areas, to the sponsoring agencies. Faculty engagement in sponsored research is mandatory. Faculty are suggested to seek guidance and get the proposals reviewed by senior / competent faculty before submission to the agencies. Mere submission of proposals does not attract any credit. Heads of the departments shall monitor the number of proposals submitted by the respective department and the number of projects sanctioned. RVCE shall support faculty to undertake projects under DSIR as individual innovators, with seed money as individual's contribution and the same shall be paid back to the Institution before the completion of the project. Individual innovators awarded DSIR projects shall obtain permission for spending the budget and shall present the account statement periodically to the Institution.

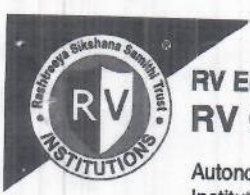
16. Support System for proof of concept and prototyping

Faculty are encouraged to conduct initial research for proof of concept by providing institutional financial support, depending on the merit of the concept and their commitment to extend the proof of concept to further technology readiness levels through sponsored research or consultancy.

17. Consultancy Projects

- Faculty shall involve in consultancy projects from industries, DRDO laboratories (CARS), Government Departments or other agencies through contractual agreements.
- Faculty / staff engaged in consultancy projects are eligible for incentive in the ratio 60:40 in favour of faculty, of the total consultancy revenue received through contractual agreement, excluding the spending as part of the committed budget.





- Faculty / staff shall engage in Training in their individual capacity or through Departments or Centres of Excellence. Earnings from training shall be shared amongst the concerned faculty as incentive in the ratio 60:40.
- The faculty involved in consultancy are permitted to receive company shares or royalty in addition to the consultancy fee which is shared between the faculty and the Institution. The apportioning of the royalty shall be decided on case by case basis.

18. Patenting

RVCE facilitates submission of applications for patenting of the inventions of faculty and students through RVCE Patent Cell. Inventors with published / granted patents shall work towards higher Technology Readiness Level (TRL) through prototyping and product development. RVCE shall provide funds for such activities based on request from the inventors. In case of technology transfer, the inventors shall be rewarded proportionate to proceeds of such technology transfer.

19. Institutional Research Journal

RVCE started RV Journal of Science Technology Engineering Arts and Management (RVJSTEAM), a biannual peer reviewed on-line journal for providing visibility to research undertaken by the faculty, students and research scholars. Faculty and Students are advised to contribute papers to the Institutional Journal.

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