

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

RESEARCH POLICY (2020-2024)

The research policy of the university has been developed in accordance to Goal 2 (Achieve standards of excellence in research, innovation and postgraduate training) of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

A. RESEARCH COUNCIL

As per to the Strategy 2.1.1, the research management structure shall be revised by constituting a “Research Council” with following composition:

Category-A1: Representations on research merit:

A1.1 Not more than two senior academic members (**with PhD**) from each faculty based on order of merit, as described below:

Research publications of repute: (a) 4 research articles in journals indexed by Web of Science or Scopus; AND / OR

Research Influence:(b) *h*-index 6 by Scopus, Google Scholar or Research Gate; AND /OR

(c) Highest citations (by others) in Google Scholar or Research Gate.

A1.2 Faculty Board may nominate a suitable Chair / Faculty Research Committee who qualify under category A.1.1.

Note that representation by faculty research scholars may be rotated every two years in the order of merit.

Category-A2: Ex-officio representations:

A2.1 Dean of the Faculties

Chairperson / Research who is the chair of the Research Council shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for a period of two years among the members in category-A.1.1 on the recommendation/concurrence of the members of the Research Council.

Faculty Research Committees (FRC) shall play the role of a Research Center attending into the needs of Research Groups in the Faculty. Research groups should obtain permission from Senate to operate as a research entity in the Faculty. The Research Council shall support the Research Groups within existing guidelines through Faculty Research Committees. Chair of FRC shall be a member of Research Council.

B. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

As per to objective 2.1 (Achieve standards of excellence in research), research is promoted in two fronts:

- (i) for socio-economic development of the region and nation; (Strategy 2.1.2)
- (ii) for generation of new knowledge of global significance/impact. (Strategy 2.1.3)

As per to the above policy and strategy, priorities will be decided in utilizing the Research Funds of EUSL.

B1. Promote Research for socio-economic development of the region and nation

The objective is to encourage and support research of regional and national significance to maximize impact to the economy, culture and society with a concern to natural environment. The scheme of funding is through establishing defined thematic research clusters/ programs (trans and multidisciplinary), cognizant of national and regional priorities.

Towards this objective, it is anticipated to establish strategic alliances with key external public and private organizations, and conduct research (especially link Honours degree research projects), thereby disseminating the findings for development and quality improvement of community.

B1.1 Annual Research Seession

The main objective of Annual Research Secessions/conferences (ARS) is to disseminate the findings emanating from undergraduate research to stakeholders with special emphasis on regional issues. There will be two pathways for dissemination:

- (i) The editorial committee (sub-committee of category-A.1 with adequate support from the faculty/entity) upon application by the student/supervisor will choose quality research outputs from examined research reports relevant to regional issues/needs to be disseminated. These outputs will be requested to be submitted as full papers (and be reviewed independently) and be selected for presented to specially invited audience to whom those to be disseminated. Special awards will be given at the end of the conference and identified potential research clusters will be chosen to further the research through internal funding. The successfully evaluated manuscripts (full-papers) will be published in the journal published by the relevant faculty.
- (ii) Abstracts will be invited and significant preference (priority) shall be given to that research emanating from undergraduate research projects. These will be published as abstracts in the proceedings.

The ARS shall be organized by individual faculties or by relevant faculties joining together, which will be decided by the Research Council and the Senate based on available funds and quantum of

quality undergraduate research output from faculties. It is encouraged to cluster ARS by combining related fields where appropriate for optimal use of funds and time.

These conferences will be funded by allocations for research from consolidated funds as per to guidelines imposed by the Research Council.

The Editorial Committee for ARS shall comprise members as per to category-A.1: Faculty members nominated by Faculty Board (as far as possible satisfying the requisites specified in A1.1) and 2-3 members nominated by the Research Council from Category-A.1.1 who are most relevant to the particular discipline/ stream. Chairperson(s) of the respective Faculty Research Committee shall chair the editorial committee of the ARS conducted by that Faculty.

B1.2 National Conferences

The objective of such conferences is to accommodate diverse interests of national needs. Modalities to fund and regulate such conferences may be set by Senate on the recommendation of Research Council. There can be national conferences organized by academic entities of EUSL upon the approval of Senate and close monitoring of Research Council, if funds can be secured through sponsorships.

The Editorial Committee shall comprise Research Council members from Category-A.1 Chaired by the Chair of relevant Faculty Research Committee with additional researchers nominated by organizing Faculty/entity (as far as possible satisfying the requisites specified in A1.1).

B1.3 International Research Conferences

The objective of such conference is to concentrate (pool-in) international research disseminations on a particular narrow topic of national/regional or current thematic interest identified by the Senate/Research Council and it will be a University event organized by the Research Council. University may partially fund the conference and a major contribution from outside sponsorship is required.

It is the responsibility of the Senate and Research Council to ensure it is a real international event and set the modalities of operation.

B2. Promote research for generation of new knowledge of global significance/impact.

The objective is to develop and implement a research funding scheme to encourage and support research of high quality (publishable in journals indexed by Web of Science, Scopus, etc.) that would contribute to enhance the global ranking of EUSL.

B2.1 Output Based Research Awards for the Publications in Indexed Journals

Award scheme for established researchers who perform high quality research and produce high impact research outputs (i.e., awards based on research publications in journals indexed by international databases stated in B2.1 (b)) that to be used to further enhancement of their research. These awards will be accumulated against their respective Grant Number that can be utilised by the researches.

Fund Management Mechanism:

The Grant Awards shall be credited to a separate account maintained by EUSL. Fund from Research Development Fund will be utilized for this purpose. Each award received by an academic will be accumulated under his/her Grant Number and shall be utilized by the researcher for the following purpose through university procurement procedure to fund his/her following research activities:

- Overseas research travel and stay (collaborative meetings, use of lab facility, getting links with new collaborators, etc.);
- Attending conferences (National/ International) that include expenses on Travel, Registration, Food and Lodging;
- Publication fee/ processing fee for publication of research articles in journals indexed by recognized databases;
- Payment for Research Assistant;
- Payment for outsourcing the analysis of samples during the research;
- Payment to purchase materials for the ongoing research;
- Payment to Purchase/ repair equipment for ongoing research;
- Expenditure on invited visiting researcher/collaborator (e.g. accommodation, air-travel, etc.) to EUSL.
- Payments for any other research related expenditure acceptable to Research Council.

Payments have to be in accordance to university procurement procedure upon the approval of the Chairman/ Research Council.

In order to be eligible for the award, the author's affiliation should be stated as EUSL in the publication and the author should be a permanent staff member at EUSL. Co-authors outside the University are not eligible to receive the award.

Modalities of the Award Scheme

- (a). Applications will be invited from permanent staff members from the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in the following year of the for the “award year” and after processing and giving sufficient time to detect any changes (e.g., erratum); i.e., awards will be given possibly after one year gap as done in Presidential Awards. The award scheme will be starting in the 2020, for the publications in the year 2018.
- (b) Output Based Awards will be given for EUSL permanent staff who have published “Research Articles”, “Review Articles” or “Rapid Communications” in journals indexed by following international databases (but, Journals identified under predatory journals/publishers will not be considered):
- (i) Science Citation Index Expanded (™) (Web of Science) (Clarivate Analytics)
 - (ii) www.scopus.com (Elsevier publishers)
 - (iii) www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed (PubMed, MEDLINE)
 - (iv) Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) (Clarivate Analytics)
 - (v) Social Sciences Citation Index® (Web of Science) (Clarivate Analytics)
 - (vi) Arts and Humanities Citation Index® (Web of Science) (Clarivate Analytics)
 - (vii) Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)
 - (viii) Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA)
 - (ix) Education Resource Information Centre (ERIC)
 - (x) Engineering Index
- (c) One research publication is entitled for only one award, and an academic may receive a cash award for several publications in a year (from January to December) as per described below:

The Reward per Researcher per research article publication (R) will be calculated by the following equation.

$$\text{Award} = \text{Rs. 150,000} \times \frac{\text{Impact Factor of the journal for that year}}{\text{Number of Author affiliations}}$$

Ceiling: *If only one award for an academic per year = 250,000*

If more than one award for an academic per year,

$$\text{Ceiling} = (\text{number of awards per year for the academic staff}) \times (\text{Rs. 200,000}).$$

EUSL Research Grantees: If an award is claimed for a publication emanating from EUSL research grant, then the award will be calculated with half of the above (i.e., Rs. 75,000) and also the ceiling shall be half of the value.

Certificate and Cash Prize: All co-authors of a publication with EUSL affiliation (including non-permanent such as Research Assistants, graduate/undergraduate students and members of the temporary teaching staff, etc.) will be given a certificate together with a cash prize not exceeding Rs. 10,000 per person per publication (i.e., maximum of 20-30% of the above award per publication may be equally distributed among co-authors of EUSL affiliation as cash awards).

- (d). The applicants should have at least three of the research database IDs made public among ORCID, Web of Science Researcherid (Publons), Scopus ID, Google Scholar and ResearchGate to facilitate their claim. These accounts **should have the Eastern University, Sri Lanka address and esn.ac.lk email verification**. The relevant web links should be indicated in the application.

B2.2 Awards for Patent and Commercialization

The EUSL will recognize the research finding of the academic from EUSL and encouraging them by converting their innovative findings to practical applications for national development, by considering under Output Based Award Scheme by developing appropriate mechanisms.

Intellectual Property Policy will be developed to provide the necessary procedural framework for protection of the resulting Intellectual rights and the necessary processes for the transfer of benefits at large with due retention of ownership rights.

C. RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants of one-year duration are given to senior academics for research under following scheme:

- (i) Research to be carried out as extensions of B1.1(i) (e.g., clustering of outputs towards a theme to solve social and environmental issues, attending problems of SMEs and industry-based research via UBL, etc.) of regional and national importance.
- (ii) Competitive Research grants under categories B1 and B2.
- (iii) Grants to sustain/continue research projects using expensive equipment obtained from big external and internal grants. Also funding to fulfill inevitable unexpected hiccups (crisis situations) of research projects from outside research grants.

- (iv) Funds shall be available to host visiting researchers/collaborators to cover accommodation cost at International Residence, EUSL, subsistence, and possibly airfare with a ceiling.

Generic Ceiling for Research Grants

Application for the research grant should cover the whole research project and generally a maximum ceiling for a Grant is maintained to be Rs. 300,000/-; exceeding budgets can usually be only for equipment that will be placed for shared use under Common Research Lab concept:

	Description	Ceiling (Rs.)
1	Local Travel & Accommodation (only for the investigators)	100,000.00
2	Chemicals & Consumables	200,000.00
3	Laboratory analysis from recognized labs	200,000.00
4	Stationary & printing	5,000.00
5	Payment for Research Assistance	
5.1	For Undergraduate/graduates/ technicians (up to Rs. 150.00 per hour)	120,000.00
5.2	For laborer(s) (up to Rs. 100.00 per hour)	5,000.00
6.1	Payment for Data Collection (questionnaire filled/ Field Observation/ Focus Group Discussion/ Interview)	200,000.00
6.2	Purchasing Secondary Data	200,000.00
7	Expenditure to host visiting collaborative researcher	200,000.00

Equipment may be considered based on funds and exceptional motivation/justification (priority for Thematic Research and group request by established researchers-see attached Appendix3: evaluation criteria) based on the concept of shared use. The Research council might consider exceptional situations and make slight deviations from above generic guidelines/ceiling based on the research merit/impact upon strong justification/motivation.

ALL Procurement/payments shall be according to university procurement procedure and regulations; if any deviations for exceptional reasons, then prior approval have to be obtained from Vice Chancellor upon recommendation of Chairperson / Research and Bursar.

The research outcome should be published as a full paper in a conference or in a journal.

Grants for Creative Work (The criteria should be developed)

D. PRIZE AWARDS

D1 Prize Award for the Outstanding undergraduate research project(s): Up to three awards per Faculty for a project (student & staff) under category B1.1(i) that are of potential impact to community / environment as judged and decided through a mechanism by Research Council; and

one award under category B1.1(ii) will be given at Annual Research Sessions/Conferences. (Evaluation criteria in Appendix-1 Section A)

D2 Prize Award for the **Best Researcher** for the year who's research had made an **impact to the community/environment (Regional / National Impact)** over a period of 3 years (category B1) (Evaluation criteria in Appendix-1Section-B)

D3Prize Award for the **Best Researcher** for the year who's research had made an **impact globally** over a period of 5 years (category B2). (Evaluation criteria in Appendix-2)