

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC)

Overview

The University, true to the innovative spirit of its founders, is alive to the cause of research and development. The breadth, depth and assortment of research activities in the university have contributed to the national socio - economic stream through technological pursuits.

ORIC is established to channelize research and innovation led initiatives. It offers services connected to research and development, innovation, commercialization, collaboration, capacity building and facilitates researchers in the processing of project/research grants.

Vision

The vision of ORIC is to promote research and innovation in the local context.

Mission

To take Pakistan forward by continuously improving quality of research, building partnerships with the industry, and being able to capitalize on outcomes that result from research and development activities.

Functions

- Encourage pragmatic research in the context of Pakistan's socio-economic needs.
- Identify and inform the faculty members about research opportunities.
- Facilitate joint research ventures and academic collaborations.
- Promote publication of research work being conducted in the University.
- Assist faculty in acquiring funds from international and national funding agencies,
- Promote entrepreneurship, technology - transfer and commercialization activities that support both local and national economies.
- Commercialize research in collaboration with industry.
- Arrange awareness seminars, symposia and workshops for the benefit of faculty and students.

Services

- Educate faculty about university research policy and process grant requests.
- Develop, maintain, and communicate pre and post-award administrative procedures for externally sponsored projects.
- Support faculty regarding contracts, progress reports, and other sponsor grants actions.
- Connect faculty and students with prospective industrial partners.
- Assist students, faculty and alumnus in pursuit of technological or social innovations.
- Mentor the promising start-ups during the initial period when they are most susceptible.
- Assist in patent filing and licensing.
- Keep web and social media presence to share the latest research, scholarship, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

ORIC Team

Name	Designation
Dr. M. Asif Naeem	Director ORIC
Engr. M. Aatif Saif Khan	Manager Research Management
Mr. Rana Ayaz	Manager Innovation & Commercialization
Ms. Seemab Siddique	Research Officer
Ms. Sayeda Sadia Batool	Grants Management Officer
Ms. Aysha Shafiq	Assistant Manager (Career Services, Chiniot Faisalabad Campus)
Mr. Ahmad Quddusi	Assistant Manager (Career Services, Islamabad Campus)
Ms. Aysha Siddiqui	Officer (Career Services, Karachi Campus)
Mr. Bashir Muhammad	Manager (Career Services, Lahore Campus)
Mr. Riaz Nawab	Officer (Career Services, Peshawar Campus)

Accomplishments

Noteworthy achievements of our department include:

- Policies were framed to streamline processes for the smooth execution of the extramural funding, Research Rewards, Research Ethics, intramural research funding for the fresh and experienced researchers (Faculty Research Support Grant), international and inland travel grants, In-kind Research Support, Technical Entrepreneurship for Faculty, FYPs, Plagiarism, etc. to improve pedestal of research and development. These policies collectively contribute to improving the research and development landscape, promoting transparency, accountability, and excellence in all aspects of research activities within the university.
- Identified avenues of research fund raising, mobilized faculty, partnered with the business community and industry for research commercialization.
- Incessantly educated faculty about emerging research avenues that resulted in over 142 research proposals submissions for external research funding in the period 2018 - 2022.
- Competitive research grants worth over Rs. 462 million were secured in the period 2018-2022.
- Research rewards worth Rs. 42 million were distributed during the period 2018-2022 to incentivize and acknowledge outstanding research publications.
- To expand faculty members' research experience, ORIC has indigenously started intramural funding through Faculty Research Support Grant (FRSG) with an impressive outlay of Rs. 41 million in the period 2020 - 2022.
- In excess of 520 training workshops, conferences, seminars and symposiums were organized in the campuses for the period 2018-2022. A large number of faculty / staff members attended conferences / seminars that were organised by other HEIs, industrial organisations etc. These engagements have provided valuable opportunities for professional development and networking, further enriching the expertise of our team members.
- The portfolio of ORIC extramural funding expands to have a lab affiliated with each of the 4 National Centers in Emerging Technologies funded by the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP): National Center of Artificial Intelligence, National Center of Big Data & Cloud Computing, National Center of Robotics & Automation and National Center of Cyber Security.
- The NUCES encourages international collaborative research. The faculty researchers are executing European Union's ERASMUS projects.
- A host of research projects with the defence and commercial verticals are also being executed.
- In 2022, under the ORIC umbrella, NUCES successfully organized six international conferences: INMIC, APIC, ICETST, IEEE WFAIR, ACCE, and ICIT. These conferences attracted renowned speakers from both international and local backgrounds, enriching the academic discourse and knowledge sharing. Looking ahead, we have scheduled two international conferences, ICET

and ICIT for 2023, with several other exciting events in the pipeline. These upcoming conferences promise to bring together experts and thought leaders from various fields to foster innovation, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas.

- During the period of 2018-2022, our department inked 95 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with a diverse range of national and international universities, as well as industrial organizations. These MoUs were strategically crafted to foster collaborations between academia and industry, aiming to promote knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, and



mutually beneficial partnerships. Through these collaborative efforts, we have been able to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating innovation and creating avenues for impactful research outcomes.

- National Grassroots ICT Research Initiative (NGIRI) program under Ignite aims to assist final year undergraduate students of ICT related disciplines by providing them financial assistance for developing prototypes / working models of their Final Year Projects (FYP) in order to increase creativity, innovation, and hands on engineering and development skills. The University has been participating in the programme and won over 160 projects from 2014 - 2022.
- We have successfully executed the task of designing and revitalizing the University's newsletter with the aim of promoting our brand, showcasing the capabilities and expertise of our faculty and students, and highlighting their notable achievements from 2018-2022.

The renovated newsletter serves as a powerful platform to disseminate information about our institution, including academic endeavours, research breakthroughs, and impactful contributions across various fields. By effectively communicating our successes and expertise, the newsletter plays a vital role in enhancing the visibility and reputation of the University, while fostering a sense of pride and engagement within the academic community.

- We maintain an incessant social media presence, actively sharing a wide range of local and international opportunities, including emerging research, entrepreneurship, and placement prospects for our faculty and students. By leveraging our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/FAS_TNUORIC/, we effortlessly disseminate information about these opportunities, ensuring that our audience is well-informed and connected to a wealth of exciting prospects at the click of a mouse.

- Incubation Center is operational at Peshawar campus for students. It is networked with entrepreneurial hub for mentoring the incubates. A MOU is also signed with National Incubation centre (NIC), Islamabad, in which it was agreed that NIC will help NUCES Students in the process of Start-ups.
- ORIC is supporting its faculty members/researchers in establishing their technical start-ups in the trade mark and patent filing processes. Professor Dr. Jawwad A. Shamsi, Department of Computer Science of the Karachi Campus has successfully filed the trade mark for his start-up (iParahi). He is also working on filing the patent application for his upcoming product.
- ORIC has been regularly sharing exchange program and international internship opportunities for students. After relaxation in the Covid-19 restrictions, it is expected that student will be able to avail professional opportunities under these organizations in 2023.