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**Information Technology University (ITU) of the Punjab,  
Lahore**

**Interdisciplinary Research Rules-2023**

**Version: 1.0**



**Effective Date: 22/06/2023**

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# Interdisciplinary Research Rules

## Information Technology University (ITU), Lahore

### 1. Introduction

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Information Technology University (ITU) recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex global challenges. This document establishes a framework to promote and support collaborative research across faculties, ensuring necessary resources, recognition, and funding mechanisms are in place. Our university has a strong foundation in blended programs and interdisciplinary research, particularly in the integration of technology with business, policy, and healthcare.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of these rules are to:

1. Facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations across faculties.
2. Provide necessary infrastructure and administrative support for interdisciplinary teams.
3. Integrate interdisciplinary research into faculty tenure and promotion criteria.
4. Establish measurable success indicators for interdisciplinary research.
5. Allocate research funding to interdisciplinary initiatives.

### 3. Scope

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These rules apply to faculty members, researchers, and students engaged in interdisciplinary research within the following faculties:

- I. Faculty of Engineering (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- II. Faculty of Sciences (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence)
- III. Faculty of Business and Management (Management and Technology)
- IV. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Public Policy and Economics with Data Science)

Additionally, the university offers **blended programs** that naturally foster interdisciplinary research, including:

1. **BS Economics with Data Science**
2. **BS Management & Technology**
3. **Public Policy and Governance (in the era of Big Data & AI)**

#### **4. Governance and Administrative Support**

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- I. The **Office of Interdisciplinary Research (OIR)** shall oversee and facilitate interdisciplinary research initiatives.
- II. University shall designate **Interdisciplinary Research Coordinator(s)** to support, identify collaboration opportunities and assist in grant applications.
- III. An **Interdisciplinary Research Advisory Committee (IRAC)** shall be established, comprising representatives from each faculty to review and support interdisciplinary projects.

#### **5. Research Facilities and Infrastructure**

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- I. The university shall establish **Interdisciplinary Research Center (ISRC)** focused on strategic themes such as:
  - a. **AI and Engineering Applications** (e.g., Smart Cities, Robotics)
  - b. **Business Analytics and Data Science**
  - c. **Technology-Driven Public Policy**
  - d. **Sustainable Development and Economics**
  - e. **Technology for Good** (focusing on social impact through AI and digital solutions)
  - f. **Medical Imaging and Computer Vision for Health** (collaborations between Computer Science, Engineering, and Healthcare)
- II. Dedicated shared workspace/lab, and data repositories to be developed for interdisciplinary researchers.

#### **6. Funding and Resource Allocation**

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- I. A University Interdisciplinary Research Fund (UIRF) is to be established to support cross-faculty collaborations.
- II. Research income will be allocated based on grants, with an **annual research funding dedicated to interdisciplinary projects**.
- III. Seed funding opportunities to be provided for emerging interdisciplinary research groups.

## 7. Tenure and Promotion Considerations

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- I. It is recommended that the university shall revise its **tenure and promotion criteria** to formally recognize interdisciplinary research contributions.
- II. Faculty members engaged in interdisciplinary projects may receive additional evaluation weightage in research impact assessments.
- III. Joint publications and collaborative research projects should be factored into performance evaluations.

## 8. Success Measurement and Reporting

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- I. The **Office of Interdisciplinary Research** will prepare an **Interdisciplinary Research Report** highlighting key achievements, funding allocations, and project outcomes.
- II. Success metrics shall include:
  - a. Number of interdisciplinary research projects initiated.
  - b. Research output (publications, patents, industry collaborations).
  - c. External funding secured for interdisciplinary initiatives.
  - d. Faculty participation in interdisciplinary research.

## 9. Implementation and Review

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- I. These rules shall be implemented through the Office of Research and Innovation in collaboration with faculty deans.
- II. These rules will be reviewed to ensure alignment with research priorities and emerging interdisciplinary fields.

## 10. Approval and Notification

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- Approval Date: **22/06/2023**
- Notification Issued by: **Registrar**