

Office of the Chancellor

Date : 03 December 2025

To : Vice Chancellor
Provost
University Strategic and Governance Committee

From : Chancellor, Prof. Ghassan Fouad Aouad

Subject : **University Research Support Policy**

This Executive Order is issued through the endorsement of the above Board of Directors' approval reference and under the authority of the Chancellor as outlined in the Policy on Policy Management under Executive Order No. 1213.

Effective immediately, Vice Chancellor and Provost are given the authority to implement the approved "University Research Support Policy" outlined in this Executive Order.

The attached policy is aligned with ADU strategic goals by creating student-centered learning environment conducive to intellectual and personal growth of students, meeting the needs of our stakeholders and be a responsive contributor to our community, achieving operational excellence by creating a service oriented organization characterized by evidenced-based assessment and continual improvement and instilling a culture of valuing people and creating and environment conducive to innovation and professional excellence of faculty and staff.

The custody of the Executive Order shall be maintained in the Chancellor Office of the University. If you have questions regarding this Executive Order, please contact Anabella Briones.

Please take the necessary action to ensure that all parties involved are informed of this communication.



Prof. Ghassan Fouad Aouad
Chancellor

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SUPPORT POLICY

POLICY OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to provide guiding principles governing research support for faculty and students, and to ensure strategic alignment between institutional strategic objectives for research and innovation, faculty and student research, and the allocation of internal funds and securing external funds, to support a high-performance research culture.

Resolution No.	R.030.25
Executive Order	1452
Supersedes	1179
Version Number:	07
Date Approved:	13 November 2025
Effective Date:	13 November 2025
Policy Owner:	Associate Provost
Viewing Access Level:	Public
Next Review Date	Fall 2028

Change History

Version Number	Change Description	Date	Changed By
02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formatting and Signature Line to follow the new approved ADU Bylaws 	May 2014	Provost
03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formatting and Signature Line to follow the newly approved Policy on Policy Management 	September 2014	Chancellor
04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the rules related to all the Abu Dhabi University-funded grants. Remove procedural details 	December 2019	Director of Research
05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced policy statement. Removed procedural guidelines for internal grant funding. Updated student research support section to a generic policy statement covering all students. Introduced new section covering policy guidance for open research. Introduced benefits, implementation, and roles and responsibilities sections. 	November 2022	Associate Provost
06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per MoU, detail concerning the free pursuit and dissemination of knowledge aligned with ADU mission and goals, and research support specific to students have been added. 	June 2023	Director of Academic Quality and Accreditation

07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the statements under the Internal Research Funding section to clarify funding allocation principles, eligibility, and reporting requirements 		
----	--	--	--

1. Introduction

For Abu Dhabi University to deliver its mission and achieve its vision, the allocation of available resources must be aligned with the University's strategic goals for research, innovation, and impact. The application of this policy is an important enabler of the faculty development framework and student research engagement initiatives, to support a culture of individual and institutional high performance.

2. Policy Statement

The University recognizes that resources available for delivering the public good of research are constrained and the need to supplement internal research funding by securing competitive external funding to further its mission. This policy provides principles to guide the development of criteria, processes, and procedures to efficiently and effectively allocate internal research funding and to promote securing external research funding. Faculty and students are encouraged to conduct research that is aligned with the University's strategic research objectives. Funding projects that are aligned with institutional research priorities may take precedence when resources are limited. Abu Dhabi University supports and encourages the free pursuit and dissemination of knowledge aligned with its mission and goals.

3. Internal Research Funding

Abu Dhabi University's Office of Research & Sponsored Programs coordinates the allocation of internal research funding and provides administrative support to faculty to manage the life cycle of external grants. The call for proposals for internal faculty research grants typically occurs during the Fall semester, with the intention of announcing the outcomes within two months of the proposal submission deadline. However, other fund cycles can be initiated if a budget is available. To ensure strategic alignment between individual faculty research activities and institutional research performance, the criteria for allocating internal funds will be consistent with the following principles:

- 3.1. Research proposals comply with the technical requirements stipulated in the application guidelines. Failure to adhere to the technical requirements leads to automatic exclusion.
- 3.2. Quality of the research proposal, and its ability to deliver the promised outputs within the constraints of the grant funding.
- 3.3. The strategic fit of the proposed project with institutional research objectives.
- 3.4. The PI faculty profile and his/her past track as a credit indicator for the potential of the submitted application, while prioritizing projects that are submitted by new hires to the University within the last 12 months who have not submitted a proposal in a previous internal funding round.
- 3.5. Past performance of awarded internal grants where the Principal Investigator (PI) applicant was the PI, or co-PI, the research performance of external team members.
- 3.6. The potential for the proposal to contribute to ADU's research KPIs for research internationalization.

- 3.7. Value for money: requested budget in relation to the promised outputs in relation to Abu Dhabi University's research KPIs.
- 3.8. A Principal Investigator (PI) may be involved in more than one internally funded project at a time in the same category and may serve as a Co-PI on multiple projects.
- 3.9. A request to transfer funds from one category to another must be approved by the Associate Provost prior to fund utilization.
- 3.10. Requests for time extension are not granted but may be considered based on significant proven progress in a research project.
- 3.11. The costs of Professional development can be funded under each research grant.
- 3.12. When faculty members who are internal grant PIs leave the University before the completion of the project, the research grant can be transferred to an ADU faculty member who agrees to be a PI to ensure the successful completion of the project, subject to the approval of the associate provost for research. Otherwise, the project will be closed out.
- 3.13. Awardees should submit an annual progress report and a final performance report by the end of the funding grant award agreement.

4. Student Research Support

- 4.1 Abu Dhabi University funds student scholarships to support an inquiry-based culture. This includes student participation in internal and external research and innovation competitions, providing research assistance to faculty, etc. Funding is subject to budgetary constraints.
- 4.2 The Undergraduate Student Research Scholarship aims to develop research skills among ADU's top students while simultaneously contributing to ADU's commitment to the nation's vision of a knowledge-based economy. The aim of the scholarship is to foster undergraduate research and encourage our students to start engaging in research at an early stage. This scholarship is granted to students who submit high-potential research proposals to ORSP and demonstrate an excellent academic record. Awarded students are asked to present their work in the undergraduate student research competition that is held yearly.
- 4.3 To be eligible for financial support, a student must satisfy the following conditions:
 - 4.3.1 Be a student enrolled in a program at Abu Dhabi University.
 - 4.3.2 Have the approval of a faculty member who is supervising and guiding the research work.
- 4.4 The Annual Undergraduate Student Research Competition: This competition aims at encouraging universities in the UAE to promote scientific research among undergraduate students and to make it an integral part of university education, acknowledging the significance of scientific research in advancing the country to the top ranks. Participating in this competition provides ADU students with a valuable exercise in competitive interaction with students from other universities within the UAE. Additionally, the competition serves to strengthen critical and analytical thinking skills among undergraduate students and provides opportunities for enhancement of students' confidence in their research abilities, exploration of new frontiers in their fields of study, and preparation for graduate-level studies. The competition is the first and the largest such event in the UAE and comprises all universities and all major disciplines.

5. Open Research

Abu Dhabi University is committed to supporting open research and to making data and other types of research open and accessible to ensure knowledge dissemination and contribute to societal progress. It also recognizes new models of open-access publishing and the potential costs and academic integrity challenges associated with using this open model for distributing research findings. The following guidelines should be taken into account when faculty utilize open-access publishing and seek funding for any accompanying costs:

- 5.1 Article processing charges (APCs) associated with open-access publishing must be pre-approved by the ORSP. If the ADU author(s) plan to disseminate their research findings from an internal research grant in an open-access journal or pay an open-access fee, they must include this cost in the internal grant application.
- 5.2. If ADU authors request funding for APCs for papers not included in a grant, they must seek prior approval from ORSP.
- 5.3. Open access charges will be supported within the constraints of the available ORSP budget for publications in journals with the potential to contribute to improving institutional research performance. Given ORSP's mandate to maximize the quality and quantity of research to achieve institutional research and innovation KPIs, its funds will be primarily allocated competitively, with the key criteria being the potential of the chosen journal to maximize performance: Scopus indexed papers in journals in the top 1%, 10% and 25% (Q1) of the most cited journals. Funding open access charges for Q2 publications will be considered by ORSP on a case-by-case basis, with priority given to papers for faculty at Assistant Professor Rank and below.
- 5.4. The maximum contribution toward open access fees will be reviewed and set on an annual basis.
- 5.5. When selecting open-access journals, faculty should conduct due diligence on the journal and publisher to avoid the possibility of publishing in predatory journals, or in a cloned journal. Intentionally publishing in predatory or cloned journals to support research performance violates ADU's Research Ethics Policy, which may lead to an investigation per ADU's Allegations of Research Misconduct Policy.

6. Benefits

The key benefit of this policy is that it provides guiding principles for allocating scarce internal research funds to connect faculty research activity with the University's strategic research objectives, which will influence the achievement of institutional KPIs for research and innovation performance.

Given the significant scale and complexity of the workflows accompanying the execution of the institutional research strategy, these principles also provide practical guidance that should be incorporated into the life cycle of internally and externally funded projects. This will be reflected in terms of the work of the research, innovation, and impact committee, the accompanying processes, criteria for project approval, and compliance with internal and external regulatory requirements.

A key benefit of this policy is the explicit recognition that the resources available for research are scarce, and, therefore, the available resources need to be allocated to maximize institutional performance to support a high-performance research culture.

7. Implementation

This policy will primarily be implemented by the Associate Provost through the structures of the research, innovation, and impact committee with the administrative support of the Office for Research and Sponsored Programs. Successful implementation of this policy also requires effective communication and coordination with the Deans and the Provost to connect the project's life cycle with annual performance appraisal and setting an objective for research performance at the individual and college levels.

8. Roles and responsibilities

In the first instance, the research, innovation, and impact sub-committee will review the policy annually in consultation with the Deans to assess its ongoing effectiveness and recommend any necessary amendments to the Provost for review and ratification by the Academic Success Committee.

Footnotes: Faculty Development Framework; Research, Innovation, and Impact Strategy; Faculty Promotion in Rank Policy; Faculty Performance Evaluation Policy.

Exceptions

For any conditions/circumstances and/or exceptions outside the conditions stated in this Policy, a request shall be presented to the Board of Directors for decision.

Authorization

This Policy was authorized by the **University Chancellor:**



03 December 2025
Date