People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

University of El Oued

University Directorate for Higher Education in the First and Second Levels, Continuing Education, Certificates and Higher Education in Graduation

University Scientific Research Policy

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Introduction:

In an era characterized by complex global challenges such as climate change, public health, and technological transformation, interdisciplinary scientific research has become an urgent necessity to achieve progress and innovation. Stemming from its commitment to academic leadership and contribution to sustainable development, Shahid Hama Lakhdar University in El Oued adopts this policy to guide its research activities toward scientific excellence, effective collaboration, and societal impact.

Definitions:

- **Interdisciplinary Research**: Research projects that integrate various scientific disciplines (e.g., natural sciences, engineering, and social sciences) to achieve common objectives.
- **Academic Impact**: The extent to which research is disseminated and utilized within the scientific community, measured by citation counts and publication quality.
- **Practical Application**: The transformation of research outcomes into solutions or products that serve social and economic sectors.

Description:

The "University Scientific Research Policy" is a strategic framework aimed at enhancing the university's research activities by supporting interdisciplinary research, improving the quality of scientific output, strengthening external partnerships, applying research outcomes to serve society, providing a supportive environment for researchers with recognition of their achievements through a career promotion system, and offering specific administrative support for interdisciplinary research teams.

Objectives:

1. **Enhancing Interdisciplinary Research**: Achieve collaboration between 70% of the university's faculties in joint research projects by 2026.

2. **Improving Publication Quality**: Increase publications in globally ranked journals (*Scopus* and *Web of Science*) by 25% within 5 years.
3. **Increasing External Collaboration**: Establish 15 partnership agreements with academic institutions and economic sectors by 2026.
4. **Applying Research Outcomes**: Convert 20% of research projects into practical applications (e.g., patents or societal solutions) by 2026.
5. **Supporting Researchers**: Provide grants to 100 researchers annually and develop 8 research laboratories by 2027.
6. **Recognizing Interdisciplinary Research in Career Promotion**: Establish a promotion system that recognizes contributions to interdisciplinary research as a key criterion for academic advancement by 2026.
7. **Providing Administrative Support for Interdisciplinary Research Teams**: Offer specialized administrative assistance to facilitate the work of joint research teams by 2025.

Mechanisms:

1. **Research Assessment and Planning**:
   - The Scientific Council develops annual and five-year plans, allocating 40% of projects to interdisciplinary research.
   - Research outcomes are reviewed every 6 months to assess progress and provide recommendations.
2. **Infrastructure Support**:
   - Propose the establishment of 8 interdisciplinary research units by 2028, funded by the university budget and external grants.
   - Allocate 15% of the annual budget to acquiring scientific and technical documentation.
3. **Enhancing Collaboration**:
   - Implement 5 international scientific exchange programs annually by 2026.
   - Launch 3 collaboration initiatives with local industrial sectors annually.
4. **Encouraging Publication and Innovation**:
   - Offer a financial reward (e.g., $500) for each publication in a high-impact journal.

- o Organize an annual exhibition and conference to showcase interdisciplinary research.

5. <mark>**Evaluation and Monitoring**</mark>:
   - o Assess research based on metrics: citation counts (target: 1000 citations annually), interdisciplinary integration (70%), and practical applications (20 projects).
   - o Submit semi-annual reports to the Board of Directors to ensure coordination.

6. <mark>**Career Promotion System Recognizing Interdisciplinary Research**</mark>:
   - o **Period**: Researchers are evaluated every 3 years for promotion based on their contributions to interdisciplinary research, starting in 2025.
   - o **Criteria**: Additional points (e.g., 20% of the total evaluation) are awarded for projects involving two or more disciplines, with priority given to publications in global journals and practical applications.
   - o **Implementation**: The Scientific Council oversees research performance evaluation, and the Board of Directors approves promotions.

7. <mark>**Specific Administrative Support for Interdisciplinary Research Teams**</mark>:
   - o **Description**: Assign a specialized administrative coordinator to each joint research team to organize meetings, manage resources, and facilitate communication among members from different disciplines.
   - o **Implementation**: The program begins in 2025, with 10 administrative coordinators provided initially to support 10 research teams, expandable based on need.
   - o **Tasks**: Include preparing periodic reports, coordinating with external entities for partnerships, facilitating access to funding and equipment, and addressing administrative challenges such as scheduling and approvals.

<mark>Role of the Scientific Council:</mark>

- **Academic Implementation**: Evaluate research quality and impact using global databases, develop implementation plans, and assess research performance for promotion.

- **Planning**: Propose new research structures, collaborative programs, and recommendations to activate administrative support.

Role of the Board of Directors:

- **Strategic Oversight**: Approve plans and budgets proposed by the Scientific Council, including the promotion system and administrative support.
- **Institutional Integration**: Ensure research aligns with national and university priorities.

Responsibilities and Resources:

- **Funding**: 60% from the university budget and 40% from external grants (national and international), with additional funding allocated for promotion and administrative support (e.g., coordinators' salaries).
- **Implementation**: The Vice President for Scientific Research oversees execution in collaboration with the Scientific Council.
- **Allocation**: Resources are distributed based on priorities of interdisciplinary projects, promotion criteria, and administrative support needs.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase interdisciplinary publications in *Scopus* and *Web of Science* by 50 publications annually by 2027.
- Achieve 15 partnerships with industrial and societal sectors, yielding 10 innovative solutions by 2028.
- Improve the university's ranking by 50 positions in *Interdisciplinary Science Rankings* within 5 years.
- Promote 30% of researchers based on their interdisciplinary research contributions by 2028.
- Enhance the efficiency of 10 interdisciplinary research teams by 40% through administrative support by 2026.

- **Monitoring Committee**: A committee chaired by the Vice President for Scientific Research, including representatives from the Scientific Council and Board of Directors, oversees progress, the promotion system, and administrative support performance.
- **Reports**: Submit a comprehensive annual report at the end of each academic year to evaluate progress and address challenges.
- **Review**: Revise the policy every 5 years to adapt to scientific and institutional developments, including updates to promotion and administrative support criteria.