

# Alexandria University- Policy Document

## Framework for Measuring and Enhancing Interdisciplinary Research Performance

This policy represents a strategic step toward transforming interdisciplinary research from an implicit practice into a **measurable and impactful institutional strength**, positioning **Alexandria University** as a leader in integrated, high-impact research at both regional and global levels.

### 1. Background and Rationale

In response to the increasing importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex global challenges, **Alexandria University** seeks to establish a structured framework to systematically measure, support, and enhance interdisciplinary research performance.

Global university ranking systems, including the QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education Rankings, increasingly emphasize research impact, collaboration, and societal relevance—areas inherently strengthened by interdisciplinary approaches.

Furthermore, alignment with international priorities such as the Sustainable Development Goals and funding frameworks like Horizon Europe necessitates a coordinated institutional approach.

### 2. Policy Objective

This policy aims to:

- Establish a **comprehensive framework** for measuring interdisciplinary research
- Enhance **research quality, impact, and global visibility**
- Promote **cross-faculty collaboration and innovation**
- Strengthen the University's competitiveness in **international rankings and funding**
- Support research aligned with **national and global development priorities**

### 3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All faculties, and research institutes
- Academic staff and researchers
- Postgraduate programs (MSc and PhD)
- University research administration units

### 4. Definition of Interdisciplinary Research

For the purpose of this policy, interdisciplinary research is defined as:

“Research that integrates knowledge, methods, and expertise from two or more academic disciplines to address complex scientific, societal, or technological challenges.”

### 5. Strategic Pillars

The framework is structured around five key pillars:

Pillar	description	KPIs
<b>Pillar 1: Research Output</b>	Enhancing the quantity and quality of interdisciplinary publications.	1. Percentage of interdisciplinary publications 2. Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) for interdisciplinary research

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Publications in top-tier multidisciplinary journals</li> <li>4. SDG-aligned research output</li> </ol>
<b>Pillar 2: Collaboration</b>	Strengthening internal and international cross-disciplinary partnerships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cross-faculty co-authored publications</li> <li>2. International interdisciplinary collaborations</li> <li>3. Joint postgraduate supervision</li> <li>4. Active interdisciplinary research clusters</li> </ol>
<b>Pillar 3: Funding and Innovation</b>	Increasing interdisciplinary grant acquisition and applied research outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Percentage of interdisciplinary research grants</li> <li>2. Participation in international funding programs</li> <li>3. Industry-funded interdisciplinary projects</li> <li>4. Patents and innovation outputs</li> </ol>
<b>Pillar 4: Societal Impact</b>	Aligning research with societal needs and global challenges.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contribution to SDG-related research outcomes</li> <li>2. Policy-informing research outputs</li> <li>3. Community engagement initiatives</li> <li>4. Applied health, environmental, and technological solutions</li> </ol>
<b>Pillar 5: Institutional Capacity</b>	Building enabling structures and systems to support interdisciplinary work.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of interdisciplinary research centers</li> <li>2. Joint academic programs</li> <li>3. Internal funding mechanisms</li> <li>4. Capacity-building and training activities</li> </ol>

## 6. Measurement and Data Sources

Performance will be assessed using:

- Bibliometric databases (e.g., Elsevier Scopus / SciVal, Clarivate Web of Science / InCites)
- University Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Research grant and funding databases
- Patent and innovation records

Interdisciplinary outputs will be identified through:

- Cross-disciplinary co-authorship
- Multi-category journal classification
- Keyword and thematic clustering analysis

## 7. Governance Structure

### 8.1 Interdisciplinary Research Committee

A central committee shall be established to:

- Oversee implementation of the framework
- Monitor performance indicators
- Provide strategic recommendations

## 8.2 Faculty-Level Coordinators

Each faculty shall appoint a **Research Coordination Officer** responsible for:

- Data collection and reporting
- Facilitating cross-faculty collaboration
- Supporting interdisciplinary initiatives

## 9. Implementation Plan

### Phase 1 (0–6 Months)

- Establish governance structure
- Define baseline metrics
- Pilot implementation in selected faculties

### Phase 2 (6–18 Months)

- Full institutional rollout
- Launch interdisciplinary seed funding programs
- Integrate KPIs into research evaluation systems

### Phase 3 (18–36 Months)

- Link KPIs to ranking submissions
- Publish annual interdisciplinary performance reports
- Expand international partnerships

## 10. Monitoring and Reporting

- Quarterly progress reports to university leadership
- Annual **Interdisciplinary Research Performance Report**
- Integration into ranking submissions and strategic planning

## 11. Expected Outcomes

Implementation of this policy is expected to:

- Improve global ranking performance
- Increase research impact and citation rates
- Enhance international collaboration and funding success
- Strengthen alignment with national and global priorities
- Promote innovation and knowledge transfer

## 12. Strategic Recommendation

The University is planning to adopt a composite indicator to provide a unified measure of interdisciplinary excellence: **“Alexandria Interdisciplinary Excellence Index (AIEI)”**

This index will combine:

- Research impact (FWCI)
- Collaboration intensity
- Funding success
- Societal impact