



SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

(Established under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade (3.58/4) | Awarded Category - I by UGC

Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M. Sc., Ph. D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)

Notification No.SIU/U-28/ 898 dated 14th November, 2019

Sub: Guidelines for Research Clusters

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that, as per the decision taken by the University authorities, the Guidelines for Research Clusters are attached as Annexure 'A'

The Guidelines will be effective from the date of publication of this notification.

Authority: Deans' Council: Resolution No.3 dated 16.08.2019

SIU/U-28/19/5034

Date: 14th November, 2019



M. S. Shejul
Dr. M.S. Shejul
Registrar

Copy for information to:

Hon'ble Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Principal Director, Symbiosis Society, Dean- Academics & Administration, Symbiosis Society, Directors of Constituents and Departments of SIU, Heads of Support Service Departments, Officers of Symbiosis International University, Officers of Symbiosis Society, Administrative Officers / Officer Superintends of Constituents and Departments of SIU.

Annexure 'A'

Guidelines for Research Clusters

Background

Research clusters are the groups of faculty members of the University, who have research expertise and experience, aptitude and desire in the same and related areas. These faculty members may be working in different Faculties and institutes of SIU. Clusters consolidate the research prowess in specific area by bringing the “physically and geographically distributed researchers” of the University together. All academics working on the rolls of the University can only be a part of the clusters.

Objectives:

1. To bring the SIU's faculty members, who are working in the same research area but in different institutes together to develop the collective wisdom,
2. To provide a platform on which the senior researchers and the novices can work together to share the expertise and experience.

Academic Philosophy:

- As one of the objectives of higher education at University level is creation of knowledge, research is pivotal importance for the faculty members. Strengthening research base, in turn, strengthens insights in the domain area, enhances teaching abilities and confidence in many ways.
- Quality research guarantees the academic and personality development as well as future career progress of the faculty members.
- It is the fact that there are academics in the University, who are new to research and they need some kind of mandate as well as support for doing research.
- Academics, in general, like to work independently but also need a knowledgeable audience for critical scrutiny of their work.
- Finally, new comers to research bring in fresh ideas, which blossom when they work with senior experienced researchers and such a synergy develops the knowledge base of that discipline where they work together.
- Cluster arrangement will give opportunities to learn, experiment and create value.
- Research clusters are the groups of experienced and novice researchers working in close intellectual proximity reflected through their thrust areas and the research problems.
- The member researchers of clusters are from SIU fraternity and are expected to identify the thrust areas and pertinent research problems together and are supposed to conduct research together, may be, in groups of 2-4 members.
- This will not relegate the research interests at individual level, but along with individual research, faculty members can contribute to the research in their clusters and may develop a new area of expertise within the cluster domain and the University.
- There is a need to recognize the collective effort of the faculty members through research clusters for motivating the members to contribute effectively.
- The research clusters will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas cutting the faculties and disciplines which will help in emergence of novel approaches.

Process of formation of research clusters:

- o The criteria for constitution of Research Clusters of SIU and identification of research thrust areas will be as follows:
 - a. Relevance of the research area to the society as a whole (which domains of the society are going to be affected),
 - b. Significance of the research to India and to the world,
 - c. Sub-areas in which the faculty members have strong research capability,
 - d. Emerging sub-areas in the research area of the cluster for which they do not have the relevant strength at present,
 - e. Adjacent research areas, if any,
 - f. With the help of c, d and e, suggestion on prospective research thrust areas and interdisciplinary research areas for their cluster,
 - g. Major research outcomes expected from the research in proposed thrust areas in terms of the Intellectual Property,
 - h. Possibility of research outcome to get translated in real benefits to the recipients (translational research, cultivating social entrepreneurship),
 - i. Major funding opportunities (national and international) available in respective areas (they can collaborate with Head, Research Projects for that – who will prepare a list of funding agencies for each proposed cluster),
 - j. Major resources required for research in proposed thrust areas such as equipment, software, human resource, finance and others ,
 - k. A tentative plan in terms of addressing the proposed thrust areas systematically and the expected growth in research outcome.
- o At first, the best performing researcher from each cluster will be identified as Cluster Champion and Co-Champion on the basis of number of research papers published in the journals indexed in Scopus/ WoS/ SCI/ SSCI/ AHCI/ ABDC/ ABS/ FT50 during their professional lifetime (not for one year only).
- o Champion and Co-Champion of each of the prospective cluster will present for 10 minutes before the expert committee and will be assessed for their capability of generating good quality relevant research outcome. This will lead to the finalization of their status as SIU's Research Cluster. The final clusters will mention specific research thrust areas.
- o The potential of the proposed thrust areas and capability of researchers will be assessed by the expert committee and the formation of cluster will be approved or disapproved. The proposed thrust areas will be assessed in terms of
 - To be oriented to the society aligned with local/regional/national/global/societal agenda.
 - To be related to the emerging and contemporarily relevant research areas of the discipline.
 - To be relevant to the identified capacity and capability of the cluster.
- o For each approved cluster, the thrust areas will be explicitly defined through short description.

Following the aforesaid process, SIU has constituted 29 clusters, the list is enclosed along with the notification as Appendix I.

Process for performance of clusters:

1. SCRI will announce the availability of funds (seed money) for Minor Research Projects, Student Research Projects and Major Research Projects and clusters will submit the research proposals in response to the same on the problems prevailing in the respective thrust areas.
2. SCRI will follow the process of evaluation by external experts as mentioned in the guidelines of the Call for Proposal.
3. Selected proposals will receive funds for research from SIU.
4. The clusters, which do not receive funds from SIU will prepare to bid for the external calls for funding in the respective thrust area. They will be provided support from the Head, Research Projects, SCRI.
5. All clusters will contribute to the increase in good quality research publications, patents (and other Intellectual Property), external research funding and other research recognition such as fellowships, awards etc.
6. Each cluster to get at least one external funded project by March 2020.
7. Each cluster to send a monthly update on email to the Dean of the Faculty and SCRI.
8. Deans to monitor the Research Clusters and report to Vice Chancellor every quarter – end of March, June, September and December.
9. SCRI to report the progress of clusters' activities to the Vice Chancellor monthly.

Future Direction:

- Research clusters, once functional, give the opportunities to the researchers of the University not only to take up the specific problems of the discipline but also the problems that need multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approach for their resolutions. However, this will happen in due course with the progress of the research prowess of the clusters.
- Well-performing research clusters can take the shape of dedicated research centres and/or think-tanks in future.

Enclosure: The list of the constituted clusters is attached as Appendix I

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THE LIST OF THE CONSTITUTED CLUSTERS

Symbiosis Centre for Research and Innovation(SCRI)		
Faculty	Sr. No.	Name of Cluster
Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Computer Studies	1	Information Science and Systems
	2	Data Science and Image Processing
	3	Computer Infrastructure and Security
	4	Geospatial Intelligence
	5	Material Science
	6	Manufacturing and Automobile Engineering
	7	Electrical Engineering and Embedded Systems
Faculty of Media and Communication	8	Media Education & Journalism Studies
	9	New Media & Digital Platforms
	10	Creative Media, Cultural Production & Consumption
	11	Media & Entertainment Industries
	12	Audience Research/ Media & Communication Effects
	13	Media & Identity
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences	14	Rural Development
	15	Urban Studies
	16	International Studies and Trade
	17	Social Science Research Cluster
	18	Education Studies
	19	Banking and Finance
	20	Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (Liberal Arts)
Faculty of Management	21	Behavioural Studies
	22	Diversity and inclusion
	23	Decision sciences
	24	Innovation & Entrepreneurship
	25	Digital Business Transformation
	26	Natural Resource and Management
Faculty of Law	27	Science Technology & Innovation
	28	Law & Justice Reform
	29	Comparative Law: EU legal studies

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