



## Policy for Academic Collaboration-2022

Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow

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- ❖ **Vision:** Strive to accomplish the goals of humanitarian society through Inclusive Education and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities
- ❖ **Mission:** To become a Global Centre of Excellence of Higher Education and Rehabilitation for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities with their Co-peers on the Maxims of inclusiveness and togetherness.
- ❖ **Objective:**

These Guidelines shall be called “Policy for Academic Collaboration (PAC)” of DSMNRU, Lucknow U.P. It will facilitate collaboration of DSMNRU with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) & Research Institutions and the institutions focussed to teaching, learning and research for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) within India and abroad as per scope and mandate of DSMNRU, Lucknow.
- ❖ **SCOPE:** This policy applies to the University as institution, collaborating individuals and/or institutions and potential collaborators of HEIs and Institutes/HEIs for PwDs considering to establish linkages, collaborations and partnerships with DSMNRU and DSMNRU-as institution, individual faculty members with HEIs and Institutes/HEIs for PwDs considering to establish linkages, collaborations and partnerships within India and abroad.
- ❖ **Background:** Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (DSMNRU) is an institution of its own type in India established to cater to the educational needs of Special Students, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), as primary focus. Keeping in view the inclusive nature of the university the importance of collaborative provision of learning, teaching, research and innovations that can contribute to the fulfillment of its vision, mission and objectives become all the more significant. This Policy for Collaboration in Academic Research & Innovation is intended for DSMNRU academia and other institutions that are involved in collaborative research and training or those considering establishing linkages, partnerships and collaborations. The DSMNRU has been undertaking and

implementing collaborations and partnerships with the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for high quality research and effective dissemination of knowledge. It can only be achieved through linkages, partnerships and collaborations with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the institutions dedicated to the cause of enrichment of PwDs and other like-minded institutions within India & abroad. Thus, this policy is an effort to enhance and support the University in establishing and developing linkages, partnerships and collaborations with other institutions at State, National and international level.

❖ **Definitions:** In this policy:

- i. Collaboration means a formal joint venture between DSMNRU or its academic staff or non-academic staff and an external (collaborator) individual or Institution established under a State, National or foreign law/statute, with the aim of producing something or achieve a pre-defined goal within the framework of the vision, mission and objectives of the DSMNRU and shall not be in violation with the UGC Regulations in this regard as notified from time to time and adopted by DSMNRU along with policy of the Government, and Other Regulatory agencies as applicable from time to time.
- ii. Partnership means formal agreement between an individual or institution and DSMNRU on a merit-based understanding to work together in implementing a joint activity related to teaching/learning, research, services or innovations with mutual academic, financial or both benefits to both sides.
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding means a formal and mutual accord which outlines the details of contractual agreement between two or more parties.

❖ **Policy Statement:**

i. **Need for Collaboration:** DSMNRU shall welcome collaboration and partnerships provisions in learning, teaching, research and innovations that can contribute to the fulfilment of its vision, mission and objectives, and in consonance with the policy of the government & UGC Regulations notified from time to time.

ii. **Procedures:**

- a) DSMNRU-as an institution, faculties, departments, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, directorates and institutes shall be allowed to seek and identify potential partners or collaborators and make initial contacts depending on the level of partnership/collaboration.
- b) Once official partnership/collaboration with potential partner is desired the individual or administrative unit shall inform the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the university and shall spearhead arrangements for an official meeting with the heads of the two institutions or their representatives to discuss the partnership agreement.
- c) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which must be accepted by both partners shall be developed with close involvement of the DSMNRU legal officer and RAC or its related Committee for the purpose, if so.

- d) Two copies of the MoU shall be signed by the RAC Chairman and the Head of the collaborating Department or the respective Faculty as the case may be with the Collaborating HEIs, Research Institutes, and Institutions for PwDs. One copy of the MoU shall remain with DSMNRU.
- e) All projects where the DSMNRU plays a significant role such as receiving and managing funds or where it is involved in administering specific components shall involve partnership agreements.
- f) In each collaboration one named person shall be identified as the coordinator/Principal Investigator (PI)
- g) All collaborations and partnerships shall be registered by the RAC or RAC authorised Committee or Cell.
- h) Regular reports on collaborative and partnership activities shall be reported quarterly to the Research and Consultancy Committee (RCC) or any Committee constituted by the RAC for the purpose.

❖ **Training:**

- i. DSMNRU shall enter into agreement with any individual, institution, organization or community in order to enhance provision of teaching/ learning that may lead to award of certificates, diplomas, degrees and/or short attachments for gaining expertise.

❖ **Adoption of Technologies:**

- i. The University shall enter into agreement with any individual, institution, organization or community in order to enhance the adoption of an appropriate technology that seeks to improve the quality, production, outcome, output and service delivery.
- ii. The University is not obliged to give any subsidy in advancing the adoption of any technology except under special project funding conditions.
- iii. DSMNRU shall offer training aimed at advancing the adoption of any technology which is within its capacity.
- iv. Where appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel shall be shared with partnering institutions the conditions of sharing shall be clearly spelt in the MoU.
- v. The University shall enter into agreement with any institution that offers to provide an appropriate technology which the university does not have or which will increase the efficiency & productivity.

❖ **Development of Innovative Technologies:**

- i. The University shall partner with any individual, institution or organization in order to develop new innovative technologies that seek solutions to challenges facing the community with priority to PwDs.
- ii. Patenting of developed technologies shall be jointly offered by the partnering institutions and shall follow the regulations laid down by the Government of Uttar Pradesh or the Government of India

which ever applies. Intellectual Property Rights policy and any other relevant regulations shall be followed as amended from time to time.

- iii. DSMNRU shall offer space within its premises where required to any partnering individuals, institutions and organizations to jointly develop new innovations that facilitates achieving its vision and mission.

❖ **Partnerships with Industry, Academia & Research Institutes to use developed innovations:**

- i. DSMNRU shall partner with any industrial organization, academic institution or research institute to explore ways of putting into use of any technologies or innovations that have been developed to pursue & enhance its vision, mission and objectives and its Research Policy 2022.
- ii. Specialized staff from the University shall be allowed to work with any industry to develop new innovations after due approval from the Competent Authority.
- iii. Sharing the outcomes of collaboration and partnerships shall be on a win-win situation. In any case it shall not be in violation of the stated Vision, Mission and Objectives of DSMNRU and its Research Policy 2022.

❖ **Collaborative Research in relevant fields:**

- i. DSMNRU shall enter into collaboration with HEIs & research institutions and other collaborators to conduct research in various fields.
- ii. DSMNRU academic and non-academic staff shall be allowed to conduct research in collaborating institutions.
- iii. Where appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel shall be shared in partnering institutions.
- iv. Regular meetings at specific intervals between the collaborating partners shall be conducted to review progress.
- v. Collaborative research involving capacity building shall be given priority to DSMNRU's need based approach and interest in that area or where specific capacity is required to be created as identified by the initiator of request for collaboration. Priority shall be assigned to the needs identified in consultation with the relevant authority such as RAC's/Research and Development Cell (RDC) office.
- vi. In any case collaboration and MoU for the stated collaboration shall not be in violation of the stated Vision, Mission & Objectives of DSMNRU and its Research Policy 2022.
- vii. UGC Regulation as issued from time to time & adopted & notified by the concerned authority of DSMNRU will be applicable in letter and spirit for Collaborations with the Foreign Higher Educational Institutions, Research Institutes & Other institutions

## ❖ **Policy Guidelines:**

### **1. Establishment of Collaboration and Partnerships:**

- i. DSMNRU shall establish collaborations and partnerships only if it contributes to the achievement of the university's vision, mission and objectives.
- ii. Proposals to establish collaborations and partnerships must meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - a) The collaboration is intended to contribute to widening participation in research, innovations and teaching in consonance with the vision, mission & objectives of DSMNRU & its Research Policy 2022.
  - b) The collaboration strengthens an existing successful collaboration or partnership.
  - c) The collaboration contributes to the development of academic links with partner organization and enhances university's reputation.
  - d) The collaboration benefits PwDs in learning, research, skill development and innovations.
- iii. In seeking collaborations and partnerships, the university shall emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining partnerships in which relationships are balanced, with collaborative partners encouraged to derive equal benefit from the partnership and to contribute fully in joint decision-making processes.

### **2. Training:**

- i. DSMNRU may engage in collaboration and partnerships with other academic bodies. Award and Certificate of the collaborating/partnering institution shall not be contravening to rules, regulations & standards and guidelines.
- ii. No binding collaborative links involving the provision of a programme or part of a programme, leading to or contributing to an award of DSMNRU certificate, diploma or degree may be established, without the full prior knowledge, agreement and approval by DSMNRU and any other appropriate authorities. Similarly, no binding links involving the provision of a programme or part of a programme, leading to or contributing to an award of the collaborating/partner institution may be established, without the full prior knowledge and agreement with the DSMNRU.
- iii. In selecting a partner institution for the provision of teaching/training, mentorship, supervision and research, DSMNRU shall therefore seek evidence of the partner institution vis-a-vis:
  - a. organizational, management and quality assurance arrangements;
  - b. staff qualifications and experience;
  - c. regulations and procedures governing the relationship of students, including academic

iv. Support & guidance and provision to address students' wider educational needs;

- a) Provision of learning, support and infrastructure and quality to meet the requirements for programmes;
- b) ethical research standards (for research collaborations) shall be strictly adhered to;
- c) provision for staff appointment, induction and development; and
- d) With respect to the overseas partners, particular care shall be taken to understand fully:
  - i. the rules and regulations relating to higher education, including those of licensing of overseas higher education operators as per UGC Regulations notified from time to time;
  - ii. the laws of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and that of the Government of India in respect of contracts and their enforceability shall be the guiding principle;
  - iii. the local higher education system and the place of the partner institution within it;
  - iv. the legal and financial position of private institutions (where applicable);
  - v. the requirements with respect to national and international recognition of awards and professional qualifications (i.e., whether or not an award of DSMNRU shall be recognized in the students' home country).

❖ **Termination of Collaboration or Partnership:**

- i. Arrangements for the termination of any collaboration or partnership by any party must take into account the interest of continuing the collaboration or partnership with respect to objectives with which it was initiated ;
- ii. The university reserves the right to terminate any collaboration or partnership immediately if the partner is in serious breach of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding i.e. :
  - a) It fails to make any payment in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Memorandum;
  - b) It becomes insolvent or unable to pay its due debts or enters into any arrangement with its creditors or engages in any legal process approximate or equivalent to the appointment of a receiver or liquidator or any other condition reasonably describable as insolvency under the Indian law.
  - c) Full details of procedures for termination will be set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
  - d) Neither party will be permitted to admit further students to a collaborative programme once a termination notice has been served.
  - e). In case of any legal dispute the settlement will be in Lucknow Court.

❖ **Implementation of the Policy:**

- i. From the Date of Notification.

❖ **Approval Details:** The policy is to be approved by the Honourable Academic Council of Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow and thereafter by the Honourable

Executive Council of DSMNRU.

- ❖ **Effective date of the Policy:** This policy shall be operational immediately after the notification of the approval of the Policy by the Statutory Bodies of DSMNRU.
- ❖ **Next Review Date:** The policy will be reviewed every three years from the date of notification.
- ❖ **Policy Owner:** DSMNRU, Lucknow.
- ❖ **Policy custodian:** Research Advisory Committee of DSMNRU, Lucknow
- ❖ **Rules and Regulations:** Rules and Regulations of DSMNRU, DSMNRU Research Policy 2022, the State Government, the Central Government and the UGC Regulations & Other Regulatory Agencies as adopted and notified by the university from time to time.