RESEARCH PROMOTION POLICY

1. Preamble

At RMKCET, research is the cornerstone of knowledge advancement, innovation and societal progress. The institution is committed to building a culture of research excellence by continually enhancing its research facilities and implementing a comprehensive policy framework that keeps it at the forefront of research-centric engineering institutions.

2. Objectives

- To promote high-quality, application-oriented research in engineering, science, technology and allied areas.
- To encourage faculty and students to publish in reputed Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) indexed journals, books and conferences.
- To support sponsored projects, consultancy and industry-linked research.
- To promote multidisciplinary and collaborative research, both within the institution and with external partners.
- To create awareness of intellectual property rights and encourage patent filing.
- To recognise and reward research productivity.

3. Continuously Updated Research Facilities

RMKCET maintains research facilities comprising advanced laboratories, well-stocked libraries and digital resources, specialised equipment and robust technological infrastructure. The institution regularly reviews and upgrades these facilities so that researchers have access to current resources. This also helps attract and retain talented faculty, research scholars and students.

4. Framework for Research Promotion

The institution operates within a structured framework designed to support and incentivise research activities. It covers the following aspects:

- **Research Funding:** Mechanisms for securing internal and external funding, including grants, fellowships and scholarships.
- **Performance Evaluation:** Criteria for evaluating and rewarding research productivity, using metrics such as publication output, citation counts, patents and successful grant acquisition.
- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Encouragement of internal and external collaboration with academic institutions, research laboratories and industry to foster innovative breakthroughs.
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Guidelines for disseminating research findings through publications, conferences, technology demonstrations and community engagement.
- **Industry and Consultancy Engagement:** Support for consultancy, testing services, product development and technology transfer.

5. Accessibility of the Research Policy

RMKCET prioritises transparency and accessibility. The research policy is made available on the institution's website and internal portal so that all stakeholders can access it easily. This:

- Keeps all members informed about research rules, expectations and opportunities.
- Ensures consistency in decision-making on research funding, incentives and promotions.
- Serves as a reference point for resolving disputes and addressing concerns related to research.

6. Research Forum

Research activities are guided and overseen by a dedicated Research Advisory Committee and the Research Board, ensuring high standards of quality and compliance with UGC regulations. These bodies periodically update research policies to align with evolving standards and provide clear guidelines for researchers within the institution.

6.1 Research Advisory Committee

Objectives: The Committee advises the executive on research priorities, challenges and opportunities, and spearheads strategic initiatives to enhance research activity across departments.

S.No.	Name of the Member	Designation	Role
1	Dr.K.Ramar	Dean - Research	Convener
2	Dr.N.Suresh Kumar	Principal	Co-Convener
3	Dr.K.SivaRam	Dean-Academics	Member
4	Dr.P.K.Devan	Professor/S&H (GE)	Institute Research Cell Coordinator
5	Dr.R.Raja Guru	Prof & Head/CSE	Member
6	Dr.N.Gangatharan	Prof & Head/ECE	Member
7	Dr. B. Prathusha Laxmi	Prof & Head/CSE(AI)	Member
8	Dr.S.M.Udhaya Sankar	Prof & Head/CSE(CS)	Member
9	Dr.Subadra Murugan	Prof & Head/ECE(VLSI)	Member
10	Dr.K.A.Selvakumaran	Prof & Head/S&H	Member
11	Dr.K.Balachander	ASP/CSE (AI)	Member
12	Mr.L A Anto Gracious	AP/CSE	Member
13	Ms.S.Rajalakshmi	AP/ECE	Member
14	Dr.D.Vendhan	ASP/CSE(CS)	Member
15	Dr.S. Hema Jyothi	Prof/ECE(VLSI)	Member
16	Dr.R C Thivyarathi	AP/S&H	Member

Functions and Responsibilities: Comprising members selected for their expertise across complementary fields, the Committee:

- Identifies and disseminates information to faculty about research opportunities from government and non-government organisations.
- Promotes multidisciplinary research initiatives and establishes methodologies for collaborative projects.
- Encourages and facilitates publication of faculty and student research findings.
- Organises regular workshops and seminars featuring eminent scientists, industry experts, investors and researchers.
- Raises awareness about intellectual property rights and patents, and motivates researchers to pursue patent applications.
- Reviews research proposals and progress of sponsored and funded projects.
- Recommends faculty incentives and seed money awards.
- Reviews the research policy periodically and recommends amendments.

6.2 Composition of the Committee

7. Faculty Incentives, Seed Money and Consultancy

To foster a culture of research excellence, the Institute offers faculty members various incentives and support mechanisms.

7.1 Research Incentives

Faculty members are encouraged to produce high-quality research publications, undertake sponsored research projects, participate in patent filing and engage in other research-related activities. Incentives are awarded based on metrics such as:

- Publications in Scopus or Web of Science (WoS) indexed journals.
- Contributions to books and book chapters.
- Amount secured for sponsored projects and consultancy.
- Number of patents filed and granted.

7.2 Faculty Seed Money

Guidelines:

The guidelines to evaluate the research projects and sanction the seed money are given below:

1. Seed Money for Research Projects shall be granted only to the full time teachers of the College.

2. The Principal investigator will clearly demonstrate that the proposed project represents an innovative research idea that can benefit the society, publish research papers, file patents/copyrights.

3. Project should be for a maximum duration of two years, and shall be completed in a time- bound manner.

4. Research Project that is already funded by some other agency will not be considered for funding.

5. The Seed Money grant for research shall be limited to Rs. One Lakh for two years for minor projects, and two Lakhs for two years for major projects.

6. The faculty members of the College who had applied to some external funding agencies but could not get funding, may also apply for the seed money grant.

7. The following committee of the College will evaluate and recommend the proposal for grant of seed money after examining the innovation, outcome and benefit of the proposed study for the society:

(i) Dean Research (Convener)

(ii) Research Coordinator

iii) Head of the concerned department

(iv) An External subject expert

The recommendations of the committee will be sent to the Principal for approval.

8. After the sanction of project, the Principal Investigator will submit half yearly progress reports of the work done to the Dean-Research office through the Research Advisory Committee of the concerned department.

9. The seed money can be utilized for purchasing and other activities as mentioned below:

(a) Minor equipment/software/ related to the proposal (Not available with RMKCET).

(b) Consumables (chemicals, data, testing charges, tools, etc.)

(c) Travel support and registration for attending conferences in India.

(d) Contingencies (books, stationary etc.)

(e) Any other important items subject to the prior approval of Dean-Research on recommendation of the Head of the concerned Department.

10. The seed money grant cannot be used for travel outside India and purchase of Laptop/Desktop.

11. After the completion of the minor/major project, a final report with outcomes and utilization certificate must be submitted to the office of Dean Research.

12. The PI will ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated period, and the final report is submitted well in time.

14. In case the PI leaves the College before completion of the project, the concerned Head of Department will ensure that the Project is completed or transferred to another faculty

competent to execute the project. In such cases, no dues certificate and relieving letter will be issued only after submission of Utilization Certificate.

15. The seed money will be discontinued if the PI remains absent for more than 30 days. In case of leave taken by the PI due to unforeseen health conditions, then permission may be granted to continue the research project.

16. In case of Maternity Leave, PI may seek prior permission for extension of the research project for the period of maternity leave.

To encourage faculty to participate actively in research and pursue external funding, the Institute provides Seed Money of up to Rs. 2,00,000. It is awarded based on the merit of the research proposal and the budget required to execute the proposed research activities.

7.3 Consultancy

Guidelines

RMKCET encourages faculty members to undertake consultancy services to support external engagements that facilitate knowledge and technology transfer. To reward these efforts, the management shares revenue generated out of consultancy services as follows:

Share

1. Use of institute space and/or equipment 40% 60%
2. For providing solutions / expertise to problems of the industry 60% 40%
3. Use of the above two cases in an equal manner 50% 50%

Faculty Incentive Scheme: An additional 10% faculty incentive mechanism is implemented for approved consultancy projects upon successful realization of funds and project completion. RMKCET encourages faculty members to undertake consultancy services to support external engagements that facilitate knowledge and technology transfer. To reward these efforts, the management shares revenue generated out of consultancy services as follows:

8. Support for Research Scholars and Students

- Faculty are encouraged to guide research scholars and to involve undergraduate and postgraduate students in research projects.
- Students are encouraged to present and publish their work in conferences and journals, and to participate in competitions, hackathons and innovation challenges.
- Laboratory and library access is provided to research scholars and project teams.

9. Review and Amendment

The Research Advisory Committee reviews this policy at regular intervals and recommends amendments to the Research Board, in line with UGC, AICTE and Anna University regulations and with the institution's research priorities.

Dean-Research

(Dr. K. Ramar)

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Principal

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