



# IBSU

**INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY LLC  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DOCUMENTS**

## **RESEARCH POLICY (2018-2025)**

*Approved on 27/02/2018 by Academic Board - Minute №:4 (Appendix №1)*

### **Approvals**

The signatures below certify that this quality manual has been reviewed and accepted and demonstrates that the signatories are aware of all the requirements contained herein and are committed to ensuring their provision.

Prepared by: Vice-Rector for Education and Research

---

Controlled by: Rector

---

Approved by: Academic Board

---

Document Code: IBSU.PL5.E  
Revision № : 1.00  
Revision Date : 14.07.2021  
Approval Date : 27.02.2018

Controlled Copy

IBSU PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Prior to use, ensure this document is the most recent revision by checking the List of Internal Documents.  
To request a change, please contact with the Vice Rector for Science and Research.

---

## CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS .....	3
1. INTRODUCTION .....	4
1.1. General.....	4
1.2. Mission of IBSU .....	4
1.3. Vision of IBSU .....	4
2. BACKGROUND .....	4
2.1. Research Approach.....	4
2.2. Framework.....	5
2.3. Institutional Data Related to Research .....	6
3. PRINCIPLES of RESEARCH.....	6
3.1. Academic Freedom.....	6
3.2. Ethics .....	7
3.3. Environment .....	7
3.4. The Role of Research in Academic Promotion .....	7
4. RESEARCH .....	7
4.1. Academic Incentives.....	7
4.2. Research Output .....	7
4.3. Research Centers .....	7
4.4. Projects .....	9
4.5. Publications .....	9
4.6. Scientific Events .....	9
5. CAPACITY BUILDING .....	10
5.1. Young Researchers .....	10
5.2. Trainings .....	11
5.3. Staff Recruitment.....	11
6. INTERNATIONALIZATION / EXPANDING RESEARCH NETWORK .....	11
6.1. Collaboration Efforts in Scientific Events.....	11
6.2. Exchange that Paves the Way for Research .....	12
6.3. (Deleted) .....	12
6.4. Memberships .....	12
7. REFERENCES .....	12

## **ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS**

COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
IBSU	International Black Sea University
HEI	Higher education institution
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
Faculty	Major academic unit at IBSU

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General

Two of the basic functions of International Black Sea University (IBSU) is knowledge transfer and conducting scholarly inquiry. The academic staff members can only actualize these functions under certain conditions and be held accountable for their output. This document provides the basis for the conditions IBSU lays as foundation for research.

The research activities at the International Black Sea University are directed by the Vice-Rector for Education and Research (VRSR) who is responsible for scientific events, research centers, promotion of research and coordination of university scientific journals and publications. The Vice-Rector also looks into funding opportunities for research and informs the corresponding staff members accordingly. All these activities are carried out in relation to the 7-year Strategic Plan and reflected in the 3-year Action Plan. The Strategic Plan identified the following areas to be improved in accordance with the current situation at IBSU and the new Authorization Standard:

Goal 2.1. Emphasizing multidisciplinary research that contributes to the society

Goal 2.2. Blending research with education

Goal 2.3. Enhancing the quality of research

### 1.2. Mission of IBSU

IBSU's mission is indicated in the Strategic Plan (2018-2025) based on R1 – Internal Regulation. The mission statement of IBSU states that “International Black Sea University focuses on professionally-oriented high-quality education and applied research emphasizing innovation, internationalization and lifelong learning. IBSU strives to promote intercultural dialogue, sustain a high employment rate of graduates in domestic and international labor market and contribute to the development of a democratic civil society”. Therefore, developing *applied research* is one of the high priority areas in IBSU's activities.

### 1.3. Vision of IBSU

IBSU's vision identifies quality applied research as one of the main targets:

IBSU will be recognized for its teaching and management excellence, applied research output, internationalization, competitive alumni, and societal integration having the necessary environment for its students and staff to be advocates of global human values, and lifelong learning.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1. Research Approach

The main research methodology at IBSU is *applied research*. Applied research “aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing a society, or an industrial/business organisation, whereas fundamental research is mainly concerned with generalisations and with the formulation of a theory”

---

(Kothari, 2004, p.3). Applied research is considered to be non-systematic inquiry and it is usually launched by a company, agency or an individual in order to address a specific problem (Bajpai, 2011). Applied research is the practical application of science. Therefore, the Research Centres have been geared towards addressing the practical aspects of the theoretical knowledge offered in the classrooms.

## 2.2. Framework

The Authorization Standard, as well as major quality frameworks in the world, asks the external and internal issues to be identified before developing a framework for the process in question.

The internal documents will be cited throughout the document. The external ones that helped form the research strategy of IBSU are as follows.

1. Law of Georgia on Higher Education;
2. Law of Georgia on Science, Technology and Their Development
3. The Socio - Economic Development Strategy of Georgia "Georgia 2020"
4. Georgia - EU Association Agreement
5. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The Unified Strategy of Science in 2017-2021

Law of Georgia (2018a) sees research activities as a means for development and its preamble states:

“This law creates legal basis for state policy in the field of science and technology, which is the prerequisite for the country's intellectual and technological progress and well-being. The state recognizes that scientific-technological progress is one of the main factors in community development, prosperity and spiritual prosperity and contributing to the intellectual possibilities of the country and the advancement of the economy. It provides humanitarian, natural sciences and technical sciences as an integral part of national culture and education, development and scientific research as a form of creative activity”.

Social – Economic Development Strategy of Georgia (2018) mentions that the research ranking of Georgia is low (73<sup>rd</sup> in 2012) (p. 24), but the Government will pay special attention to promoting “applied research by increasing state funding and introducing various instruments to do so” (p. 26). It is not totally clear how / if private HEIs can benefit from funding yet, however this statement communicates the idea that *applied research* is a country priority.

Europe 2020 Strategy (2018) envisages research and development budget to be 3% of the EU’s GDP. Georgia – EU Association Agreement does not bring about novelty to the topic of research, only referring to the existing EU policies which are *open innovation*, *open science*, and *open to the world* (EC, 2018). The *open innovation* goal refers to the importance of applied research through which it is possible to involve experienced non-academic people in research, circulate accumulated knowledge, and reach new markets. *Open science* goal encourages the higher education institutions to involve interested parties in research right from the beginning and at every phase by sharing research results obtained at each stage through open access platforms and the like. This intention automatically leads the way to the next goal (*open to the world*) which focuses on international cooperation.

---

Law of Georgia also explicitly points at the importance of research in the higher education sphere and defines scientific research as one of the cornerstones of high quality teaching and learning. It also mentions the issues of integrating research into education, knowledge transfer and innovation. The law encourages the HEIs to spread the research activities to all three cycles of education and prepare a conducive environment for research. The Law pays attention to strengthening of the human resources necessary for the purpose.

It is worth mentioning the importance of international collaboration and funding, such as Horizon 2020 and COST, the necessity of accessing international scientific-research infrastructure and e-databases and the fact that 21 public HEIs are connected to ELSEVIER through Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Scientific Foundation, which leaves private universities out. IBSU strives to improve its rules and regulations as well as research infrastructure as the Law requires.

### **2.3. Institutional Data Related to Research**

IBSU has recently developed a system where all the relevant institutional data is kept including research related ones.

Research related information is now being collected under the following titles:

- IBSU journals (publications, accepted papers, rejected papers, co-authored ones and their countries)
- Publications (other publications and their types, the ones co-authored with international researchers, year of publication, publisher, etc.)
- Research Centre staff
- Research Centres' action plans
- Research Centres' activities
- Information about board members of IBSU journals
- Conferences (name, year, number of attendees, type, venue, etc.)
- Conference sessions
- Budgetary issues
- Academic incentives offered

## **3. PRINCIPLES of RESEARCH**

The Academic Board of International Black Sea University confirms the following principles related to research:

### **3.1. Academic Freedom**

Article 8 of Law on Science, Technology and Their Development explains the issue as follows:

The scientist has the right to:

- A. conduct scientific research without any external interference and publish the results of the research without prejudice, except when the restriction is taken into account by the contract or they contain state secrets;

---

B. independently determine the contents of scientific research, research methods and means;

### **3.2. Ethics**

Ethics is a significant issue in the scientific world, an IBSU provides guidelines for the staff and students to avoid plagiarism and promotes honesty and integrity, health, safety, objectivity, privacy, carefulness, openness, respect for intellectual property and other personal rights, confidentiality, responsible publication, and legality.

### **3.3. Environment**

IBSU should provide an environment conducive to research. It is obvious that the resources are limited and the university should prioritize the directions, which should be financed.

### **3.4. The Role of Research in Academic Promotion**

The issue of research plays an important role in academic promotion (R1F52 – Evaluation of Academic Staff Performance Form; R19 – Regulation for Recruitment and Selection of Academic and Invited Personnel). The academic staff are encouraged to publish high quality research to accumulate points for promotion and to renew their contracts.

## **4. RESEARCH**

### **4.1. Academic Incentives**

IBSU has had a Regulation for Academic Incentives (R14) since 2013. In 2021 the regulation has revised in terms of increasing the incentives as well as making the remuneration mechanism more comfortable.

The regulation basically provides financial incentives for affiliated academic staff members to benefit from a “personal” budget. The budget covers expenditures for attending conferences locally and abroad to a certain extent, publishing articles in journals with high impact factor, receiving patents, proof-reading, publishing books and book chapters. The other non-affiliated academic, invited and administrative staff members also benefit from academic incentives if they publish in IBSU Scientific Journals.

The incentives discussed by the Vice Rector for Education and Research based on the application submitted by the academic staff.

### **4.2. Research Output**

The faculties have a long tradition of organizing international scientific events. For example, the Silk Road Conference Series is held annually.

### **4.3. Research Centers**

Following the ever-increasing focus on the issue of ‘research’ in Georgia and willing the enhance the quality of research, IBSU set up ten research centres in order to boost its research output and blend

research with education. However, not all the Centres could meet the initial expectations, therefore the number of research centres was brought down in October, 2017. In order to meet the requirement of improving innovation and research (Law of Georgia, 2018b, p.44), IBSU started a Research and Innovation Hub under the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research.

There are currently two Research Centres under Vice-Rector for Education and Research:

1. Centre for International Studies
2. Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

The *Centre for International Studies* works in the following areas:

- Geopolitics of the Black Sea Region;
- EU Studies.

The *Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies* focuses on:

- Economic Research

The main aims of the Research Centres are as follows:

- doing applied research in their respective field(s)
- producing quality publications
- creating blogs to help with writing skills of graduate students
- integrating research into education, especially contributing to the development of doctoral students by:
  - offering them topics of research
  - helping them refine and narrow down their dissertation topic
  - funding for research: writing project proposals
  - authoring joint articles with IBSU staff members and/or international researchers when/if possible
  - encouraging them to author article(s) for IBSU journals
  - organizing scientific events for your researchers, thus contribute to the development of their dissertation and network
  - helping them find international opponents, supervisors as well as reviewers whenever possible
  - involving them in the Research Centre activities on a voluntary basis and/or fee-based assistants

In order to sustain the level of standardization, IBSU developed guidelines and templates for graduate students to comfortably start writing their research work.

The research centres collaborate with other administrative units at the university as well. The best example of such cooperation is the one in which the students do market research with the initiative of the Career Planning Office and the outcomes are utilized by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research for scientific research purposes.

Collaborating with international research centres is another aim set for Research Centres. For instance, IBSU has secured an agreement with University of International Business and Economics (“UIBE”) to develop research projects and support the development of the academic relationships.

---

#### 4.4. Projects

Project applications are crucial to attract funding for research. Although not being about pure research, IBSU participated in 3 TEMPUS projects, as well as Black Sea Basin and Visegrad projects so far. The experience from the EU projects helped produce R34 - Regulation for Projects where the process related to handling a project have been clarified.

LEPL - Shota Rustaveli National Foundation offers grants to HEIs in 10 directions. The following are appropriate for IBSU:

1. Humanitarian, Economic and Social Sciences;
2. Engineering, high-technology materials;
3. Information Technologies, telecommunication;

Proper funding is crucial in quality research. The young researchers are encouraged to take part in projects, a skill that is vital for their future career.

#### 4.5. Publications

##### Scientific Journals

Faculties of International Black Sea University has been publishing scientific journals (<https://journal.ibsu.edu.ge/>). They are:

- Journal of Education in Black Sea Region (<https://jebes.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal in Humanities (<https://jh.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Social Sciences (<https://jss.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Technical Science and Technologies (<https://jtst.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Business (<https://jb.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Law (<https://www.ibsu.edu.ge/research/ka/journals/law>)

Although one of the objectives of IBSU faculty journals is to involve more doctoral students in research activity and provide them with a medium to publish their articles, the journals receive many articles from both national and international researchers. However, we are now observing the article flow, the number of accepted and rejected papers for each journal and will see what we need to do to improve the quality of them and sustain their timely publication.

##### Scientific Events

###### *Silk Road Conference Series*

The Silk Road Conference Series (SRC) started in 2003 (with the word “Symposium” in the title changing to “Conference” in 2011). Up to today, there have been held several conferences organized by Silk Road Institute.

###### *HALC*

HALC Conference Series is a new initiative. HALC stands for History, Art, Literature and Culture in Black Sea Region and South Caucasus. HALC is successful in bringing researchers in the field

---

together and help promote Georgia (the country today, its past, and the culture) in the international arena.

### *IRCEELT*

International Research Conference on Education, Language and Literature is another conference series that has turned into a traditional one. It is one of the most famous international conferences in the region that attracts researchers from many different countries of the world.

## **5. CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **5.1. Young Researchers**

IBSU has a tradition of producing its own staff (capacity building) out of its graduates. Starting from the Rector, there are 60 IBSU graduates working at IBSU. Therefore, it is more important than ever to pay special attention to young researchers because some of them will most likely become our colleagues.

#### Conferences

IBSU organizes many international conferences. The conferences are great opportunities for the young researchers to keep up with recent developments in their fields, expand their network and find researchers to work on joint projects.

Below is a list of conferences organized (and will continue to be held) for the development of young researchers and all of them are international:

- Annual International Research Conference on American Studies (AMSC);
- Student conference - Caucasus at the Crossroad: Challenges to Regional Stability;
- Annual Student Conference (Education and Humanities);
- Student Conference (Social Sciences).

#### Journal Articles

IBSU has 6 faculty journals published regularly.

- Journal of Education in Black Sea Region (<https://jebs.ibsu.edu.ge>)
- Journal in Humanities (<https://jh.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Social Sciences (<https://jss.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Technical Science and Technologies (<https://jtst.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Business (<https://jb.ibsu.edu.ge/>)
- Journal of Law (<https://www.ibsu.edu.ge/research/ka/journals/law>)

Projects: Faculties and Research Centers run small-scale projects. One of the aims is to involve students at all cycles in the projects.

Training: IBSU offers graduate students and study process administrators trainings related to Academic Writing, thesis/dissertation writing, ICT skills, and citation/referencing.

---

## 5.2. Trainings

Capacity building activities are an integral part of developing young researchers and keeping the current academic staff up-to-date. A series of trainings have been offered to a group of staff members from various faculties.

Another way to imbue skills in young researchers is to take them as teaching assistants (TAs). They are also involved in administrative tasks as well to witness that side of doing research as well.

## 5.3. Staff Recruitment

The Law of Georgia (2018b, p.32) stresses the importance of recruiting young people for research in order to overcome the problem of aging among the current researchers in the country.

IBSU recruits staff for research in three ways:

1. Academic staff to teach in graduate programs based on their qualifications in the field.
2. Researchers for Research Centres
3. Graduate assistants for Research Centres

The qualifications for academic staff are listed in R19 – Regulation for Recruitment and Selection of Academic and Invited Personnel and follows a rigorous process including HR, QA, and a recruitment board.

## 6. INTERNATIONALIZATION / EXPANDING RESEARCH NETWORK

Article 24 of Law on Science, Technologies and their Development defines the right of the organisations to set the partnership frameworks in agreements with foreign partners within their competence.

The fact that all its doctoral programs are in English helps IBSU improve its level of internationalization quite a strongly. Here is how we enhance our internationalization:

- IBSU employs international researchers in Research Centres
- Strives to find international opponents and supervisors
- Looks for exchange possibilities
- Invites international researchers to teach short term and/or long term
- Look for joint program opportunities
- Involves international researchers in editorial boards of faculty journals
- Organizes international conferences and enhances its network
- Signs memorandums of understanding with higher education institutions abroad

### 6.1. Collaboration Efforts in Scientific Events

IBSU strives to organize all the scientific events in collaboration with national and international public and private HEIs, thus strengthening its network this way and allowing researchers and young researchers share their research output and initiate new joint research work.

---

## 6.2. Exchange that Paves the Way for Research

Exchange opportunities are valuable in establishing ties of academic affairs and funding plays a significant role in actualizing exchange activities. IBSU promotes more exchange now and there are more and more externally funded exchange opportunities every year.

During their exchange trips, IBSU staff members conversed collaboration ideas including but not limited to inviting host university to become members of the editorial boards and/or reviewers of IBSU journals, producing joint scientific events and publications, being opponents and/or supervisors for doctoral students, etc.

## 6.3. (Deleted).

## 6.4. Memberships

International organizations, such as European University Association (EUA - eua.be), aim to get institutions of interest together in order to raise quality of higher education and research. IBSU is about to complete the requirements for application to EUA as well as becoming a member of EUA Council for Doctoral Education (eua-cde.org) in order to improve its doctoral programs.

## 7. REFERENCES

1. Bajpai, N. (2011). Business research methods. Pearson Education India.
2. European Commission. (2018a). Goals of research and innovation policy, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/goals-research-and-innovation-policy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/goals-research-and-innovation-policy_en)
3. European Commission. (2018b). Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility, <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/report/PSF%20Factsheet%20Georgia.pdf>
4. European Commission. (2018c). Europe 2020 Strategy, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/framework/europe-2020-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester/framework/europe-2020-strategy_en)
5. Government of Georgia. (2018). Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia, GEORGIA 2020. [http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/sites/default/files/social-economic\\_development\\_strategy\\_of\\_georgia\\_georgia\\_2020.pdf](http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/sites/default/files/social-economic_development_strategy_of_georgia_georgia_2020.pdf)
6. IBSU Strategic Plan. (2018). Unpublished Strategic Plan, IBSU, Tbilisi, Georgia
7. Kothari, C. R. (2004). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Age International
8. Law of Georgia. (2018a). No.672. April 30, 1997, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/28426>
9. Law of Georgia. (2018b). No.688, December 21, 2004, <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/32830%23>

*Ignorance of rules of the university shall not be a defence to anyone.  
All are therefore required to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations as outlined in the  
related IBSU documentation.*

---

*IBSU is an equal opportunity institution. It does not discriminate against any member of its  
community on the basis of gender, race, nationality, ancestry, creed, marital or parental status, or  
physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities in its educational programmes and activities.*

---

**Published by:**

**INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY**  
David Agmashenebeli Alley 13km, 2, Tbilisi, 0131,  
Republic of Georgia  
[www.ibsu.edu.ge](http://www.ibsu.edu.ge)  
[contact@ibsu.edu.ge](mailto:contact@ibsu.edu.ge)

