

RESEARCH POLICY



**CENTURION
UNIVERSITY**
*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities!*

CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, ODISHA

OFFICE: AT/PO: R.SITAPUR, VIA: UPPALADA, PARLAKHEMUNDI,
GAJAPATI – 761211, ODISHA (INDIA)

AUGUST 2013

RESEARCH POLICY OF CUTM

Background

Centurion University of Technology & Management (CUTM) is the first multi sector private state university in Odisha, established through an act of state legislative assembly in 2010. The core objective of CUTM is ‘shaping lives and empower communities’, and creating wealth and livelihood opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid. The objective is achieved through education and training, financial services and other projects in rural communities, particularly in southern Odisha and northern coastal Andhra Pradesh. CUTM has strong environmental as well as social values. The University leads a network of educational institutions delivering primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education and training. CUTM evolved from the Jagannath Institute of Technology and Management (JITM) and Centurion School of Rural Enterprise Management (CSREM) at Parlakhemundi, and the Centurion Institute of Technology (CIT) at Jatni, Bhubaneswar.

The Centurion School of Vocational Education is integral to the university. It imparts ITI and Diploma education through Centurion Industrial Training Centers (CITCs), at nine locations in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The Centurion group also runs a number of Higher Secondary Science Colleges and Public Schools in Odisha.

To bridge the gap between theory and practice, the University works in close association with its Gram Tarang Group of sister organizations involved in social entrepreneurship outreach activities.

The Gram Tarang Employability Training Service Pvt. Ltd. (GTETS) is an employment oriented skill building initiative focusing on socially weaker sections of society, especially school dropouts in rural Odisha. Over 21,000 students have been trained through various programs in collaboration with the industry (NALCO, Vedanta, Simplex, Navayuga, and IL&FS). GTETS is a special purpose vehicle created by CUTM and the second ever partner of National Skill Development Corporation to help upscale its existing vocational training activities. It implements various skill building programs ongoing at CUTM. It has received recognition from FICCI and United Nations for its innovative employment linked skill development program.

The Gram Tarang Inclusive Development Services (GTIDS) attempts to provide financial service to the bottom of the pyramid clients through about 4000 banking correspondents in partnership with technology partners like Punjab National Bank, Andhra Bank, Indus Ind Bank United Bank of India & Union Bank of India. Presently GTIDS operates in nine states and has the mandate to take this to 10,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) by 2012.

The Gram Tarang Self Help Cooperative (GTSHC) looks at rural Indian as a partner rather than a market and constructively engages with the local community, especially through women Self Help Groups (SHG) across rural Odisha, to source, produce and market various products ranging from soap and sanitary napkins to financial product like life insurance.

The Gram Tarang Foods Pvt. Ltd. (GTFPL) undertakes value addition of agricultural produces near the source of production, though process like spice oil extraction, and consequently offering alternative employment opportunities to local population.

The Centurion Group of Institutions have more than 200 acres of campus area and 8,00,000 sq ft of built-up area across nine locations in Odisha (Jatni, Paralakhemundi, Koraput, Rayagada, Bolangir and Balasore) and Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Kanchili and Pathpatanam). It has capacity for fully residential programs with separate dormitory facilities for men and women for over 900 trainees at any point of time or 6000-7000 youth per year. It has 200+ networked computers with round-the-clock Broadband 1 GB lease line internet connectivity and Language Lab for soft skill development of students. It has 5 NCVT Affiliated ITCs offering Fitter, Electrician, Welder, Computer Operator, Hardware & Networking, Diesel Mechanic and MMV trades. CUTM has NSDC Funded workshops equipped with high end machine tools including CNC Lathe, CNC Milling, etc. In addition, the University is fully equipped mechanical engineering lab, civil engineering electrical engineering lab, electronics and communication engineering lab, physics and chemistry lab and workshops for fitter and welder. Its training cum production facility is equipped with CAD/CAM lab.

The Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) offers Certificate, Undergraduate, Graduate, Post-graduate and Doctoral level courses in the fields of Natural Science, Social Science, Engineering, Management and Agriculture. The academic programs are offered through its School of Management, School of Technology, School of Agricultural Sciences and School of Vocational Education and Training.

The vision of the University is to become a globally accredited human resource centre of excellence catalysing sustainable livelihoods in the less developed markets across the globe. The mission of the University is to provide high quality and globally accredited academic programmes in technology and management, promote entrepreneurial culture and enterprise, and provide globally accredited employability training for less endowed segments of the population. Social justice and sustainable economic development are the key themes on which the university works.

Quality Policy

CUTM intends to adhere to the highest standards of academic quality through honest dealings with stakeholders namely students, faculty, staff and employers in particular and society in general.

Objectives of Research Policy

The broad objective of the research policy is to provide guide lines for undertaking high impact and context specific applied research so that CUTM will be well-known in the chosen fields in next five years. The objectives include knowledge generation, evidence-based advocacy, experiential learning and strengthening curriculum.

Organisation of Research Activities

The research activities at CUTM will be organised in a decentralised manner, with minimal central coordination for ensuring standardisation of publication and high quality output. Figure 1 indicates the Research Organisation Structure at CUTM. There will be a **Research Policy Group (RPG)** headed by the Vice Chancellor with the Director (Research) as the Member Secretary. Other members of the Research Policy Group would constitute Pro-VC (Engineering), Pro VC (Management) and Pro VC (Learning). The Research Policy Group will decide policy guide lines and themes for the research at the University. It will meet twice in a year.

The **Research Advisory Group (RAG)** comprising President (CUTM), Vice-President (CUTM), experts from government, industry, civil society and academia will advise the Research Council about the desired direction and scope of research at CUTM. The RAG will be chaired by the President (CUTM). Director (Research) will be the Member Secretary. RAG will meet once a year.

To operationalise the research activities at department and faculty level, there will be a **Research Council (RC)** comprising Dean (Engineering), Dean (Management), Dean (TPC) and Director (Research). Director (Research) will be the Chairperson of the Research Council. The Research Council will meet at least once in three months, facilitate the research activities, monitor progress and ensure timely publication. Every department head or a designated faculty from the department will have single point responsibility for all research related activities of their department and he/she will report to the Director (Research), through respective heads of the department.

There will be a **Research Coordination Committee (RCC)** comprising Director (Research), Coordinator (Doctoral Research) and Coordinator (Graduate Research). Director (Research) will be the Chairperson of this Committee. She/he will be responsible for research process standardisation, quality assurance, progress monitoring and publication. RCC will meet once in every month.

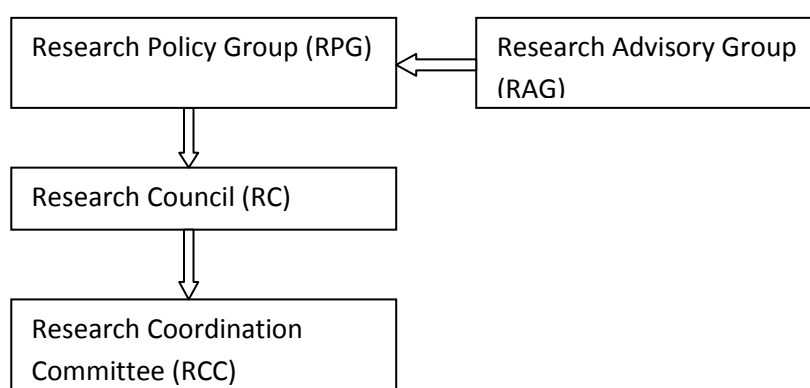


Figure 1: Organisation Structure of Research at CUTM

In partial fulfilment of the academic programs, research activities will be taken up by the students at doctoral, masters and graduate level. Similarly faculty also undertakes research in its area of interest. The Research Coordination Committee will ensure that the faculty's and students' research activities are standardised, reasonable quality is assured and the output of the research meets the direction recommended by the Research Council. Accordingly, it will be responsible for enhancing research capacity of faculty and students, developing style manual, facilitating linkage with outside institutions and supporting in-house and outside publication. The Research Coordination Committee will create an enabling research environment in the university through weekly seminar series, symposiums, etc. It will network with researchers and institutions for strengthening research activities.

Themes of Research

Although faculty and students can chose their topic of research, considering the need of the university to be well-known in specific areas of interest to the region/state, they will be counselled to undertake research activities in the following thematic areas.

A. Engineering

- a. Low Cost Building Technology
- b. Watershed Development
- c. Water and Sanitation
- d. Smart Grid
- e. Integrated Energy System
- f. Renewable Energy
- g. Clean Coal Technology
- h. Metal Extraction
- i. Flexible Manufacturing
- j. Cloud Computing
- k. GIS and Remote Sensing

B. Agriculture

- a. Organic Farming
- b. Organic Manure
- c. Integrated Pest Management
- d. Natural Resource Management

- e. Horticulture
- f. Forestry
- g. Fishery
- h. Goatery
- i. Dairy

C. Management

- a. Medium and Small Enterprises
- b. Agribusiness Management
- c. Social Entrepreneurship
- d. Rural Marketing
- e. Rural Finance
- f. Sustainable Livelihood Security
- g. Development Communication
- h. Technology Management

D. Humanities/Social Science/Basic Science

- a. Gender and Development
- b. Sustainable Development
- c. Decentralised Planning
- d. Development Communication
- e. Technology-Society Interface
- f. Disaster Management

Research Publication

The output of the research by the faculty will be published in-house in the form of Working Paper and Research Study. Faculty will be encouraged to publish in refereed journals. The output of students' research will be published as dissertation, theses or research reports. Each in-house publication will go through a quality assurance process before it is released to public domain. The Research Coordination Committee may delegate the quality assurance task to

the faculty members. If required, language editing facility will be provided to the faculty and students. It is expected that each faculty will publish at least one Working paper in a year. The procedure for publication of Working Paper will be as below.

- a) Submission to a committee (to ensure quality of WPs)
- b) Referee to review the WP internally and assess the criteria – theoretical, empirical contribution by the author
- c) Literature review and inclusion of new material is required
- d) Prescribed referencing pattern has to be followed by the author
- e) Grading of WPs – i) Publishable, ii) Publishable with revision, iii) Not publishable.
- f) Referee reports should be available in 3 weeks time
- g) The working paper can be put on hold, if it hampers the publication of the same in a journal

Incentives for Research

Incentives in the form of financial reward and promotion will be an integral part of the research policy of the University. It will be announced from time to time.