

1.0 Preamble

- The Mauritius Institute of Education, through its Strategic Plan, is committed to the promotion of research in education as a core strategic goal. To ensure that the Mauritius Institute of Education achieves its vision, the commitment to research will have to be aligned with the government's wish to create a nation that is creative and innovative.
- The primary objective of research in education is to lead to the deepening and broadening of knowledge and, hence, to a better understanding of current issues. This objective also includes the dissemination of findings through publication, teaching, further research and consultancy.

2.0 Aims of the Research Policy

This policy document aims at:

- (i) Presenting a policy framework for the conduct, funding and promotion of research at the MIE.
- (ii) Providing a framework on strategies to achieve the goal pertaining to research.

The responsibility for the enactment of this policy resides with the Director and the Chair of the Research Unit, while responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the research policy is exercised through the Research Unit.

3.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines that will help:

- 3.1.1 Establish a transparent and collective decision-making process for the allocation of funds and other kinds of support for research.
- 3.1.2 Initiate research capacity development initiatives for staff.
- 3.1.3 Provide for continued support to engage in research.
- 3.1.4 Uphold research as a priority.

4.0 Policy Content and Guidelines

4.1 Commitment of the Institute

The Mauritius Institute of Education adheres to the following guiding principles regarding research.

- 4.1.1 MIE will foster an environment conducive to the conduct of research (including school-based research) within the limit of available funds. It will offer space, resources, and facilities, based on the educational merits of the proposals.
- 4.1.2 Since MIE is a publicly funded institution, it is expected that all research outputs will be publicly available.
- 4.1.3 MIE undertakes to respect the findings of the research. Whilst it is understood that the responsibility for the retention and safe keeping of research data and findings lies with the researcher(s), the Research Unit may advise the researcher(s) about avenues for the dissemination and application - whenever appropriate - of findings, especially when the latter emanate from projects sponsored by the Institute.
- 4.1.4 The Research Unit will facilitate the process of getting the study published in peerreviewed local/international journals.

4.2 Commitment of Academic staff

In any higher learning institution, the quality of output is dependent on the quality of activities undertaken by Academic Staff. Therefore:

- 4.2.1 Academic Staff are encouraged to conduct research in their subject area/across subject areas on any issue relevant to education or society.
- 4.2.2 Academic staff are encouraged to collaborate with resource persons from other institutions on joint research endeavour, but the responsibility for principal investigatorship will rest with the MIE academic staff for MIE funded projects.
- 4.2.3 Whenever possible, academic staff are encouraged to seek research funds from sources other than the MIE for the carrying out of their project. In such cases, the Research Unit should be informed of externally sponsored projects so as to maintain an up-to-date research database for the Institute.
- 4.2.4 Engagement in research should be balanced with other responsibilities, such as teacher education, curriculum development and administrative duties.

4.3 Types of Research and who conducts Research

Two types of research are encouraged, namely strategic research and applied research.

- 4.3.1 Strategic Research: It refers to research work that will produce a broad base of knowledge likely to address current or future education-related problems and/or offer opportunities for solving them.
- 4.3.2 Applied Research: It refers to research work which intends to produce new knowledge in a specific area. The results emanating from applied research are primarily valid for a limited number of methods or systems.
- 4.3.3 It is highly recommended that Heads of Schools/Centres/Departments/Units encourage their staff to embark on research projects.
- 4.3.4 The research project can either be conducted by an individual or by a group of staff members within a given Department, across Departments/Schools or in collaboration with other local and/or international institutions.

5.0 Ethics

The MIE holds all researchers responsible for conducting their research in strict adherence to ethical standards. It is understood that:

- 5.1.1 Academic Staff are required to undertake research in compliance with all MIE obligations, such as teacher education and/or curriculum development, etc.
- 5.1.2 It will be incumbent upon the Research Unit to primarily ascertain the classification level of ethical risk inherent to a proposed research project, and to subsequently refer the proposal to the Ethics Committee for more thorough consultation on the matter.

6.0 Application for funding & Process

Staff are required to use the Project Proposal Template (Ver. 2014) to request for funding of projects.

- 6.1.1 Staff should submit their proposals for consideration to the Research Unit every year, by the end of the month of May.
- 6.1.2 Projects are categorised as short term [3-6 months], medium term [7-12 months] and long term [13-24 months].
- 6.1.3 The proposals will undergo a blind peer-review process and based on pre-defined evaluation criteria, and if successful, funding will start as from the month of August/September.
- 6.1.4 The Principal Investigator is required to submit the final report at the end of the study. For the short-term projects, only the final report is needed; for medium term research, an intermediate report and the final one is required; for long term projects, two intermediate reports and a final one will be required.