

RESEARCH POLICY AND PROCEDURE

CODE: P043

Section: Academia

Policy Owner: BOG

Procedure Owner: Chief Operating Officer - Academia

RESEARCH POLICY

1.0 Scope

The Research Policy will apply to all Academic staff, including full – time and part time members. This policy is in line with the Institute of Tourism Studies strategy whereby it specifies the need to constantly address key issues in Tourism and Hospitality through Research and Innovation

2.0 Aims

This policy draws from the National Research and Innovation Strategy 2020 of the Maltese Government where it specifies that *‘Tourism is a key pillar of economic activity in Malta. The sector is well established and mature and there is a good degree of collaboration among operators. The sector is not R&D intensive but must innovate in order to remain attractive and competitive. Consultations yielded several avenues for innovation activity, however innovation in tourism product development was repeatedly highlighted as a key niche where Malta has potential for growth through innovation. In addition to linkages with other specialisation areas such as ICT and health, this specialisation area should involve extensive collaboration with the creative industries.’* (MCST, 2014:21, available at <https://mcst.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/National-RI-Strategy-2020-June-2014.pdf>)

3.0 Objectives

- ITS academics and students to foster integrity in research ethics;
- ITS academic and students to carry out regular research to contribute towards capacity building in the Tourism, Hospitality, Culture and Heritage sectors;
- The institute of Tourism Studies to publish and promote the results of the research carried out by its academics and students to contribute towards theoretical and practical knowledge with the above-mentioned industries.
- ITS academic and students to discuss their research findings with the industry community;
- Publish research work inhouse and in international academic and semi-academic journals.
- Seek R&D EU funding to support the Institute’s research activities.

4.0 Advanced research training

All ITS academics will undergo inhouse training on how to carry out publishable research – this training should include but should not be limited to: -

- Training on advance research methods (both qualitative and quantitative)
- Seminars on advanced academic writing
- Training on common practices in academic journal publications

This policy shall be read in light of other policies, namely the Plagiarism policy, Intellectual Property Policy, and the Quality Assurance Policy .

Research Procedure

With a view of investing in the research capabilities of the Institute of Tourism Studies, the Chief Operating Officer – Academia shall identify members of the Academic Staff to share their knowledge and expertise towards the publication of quality research and other academic material.

For this purpose, the Board of Governors has approved the constitution of the Academic Research and Publications Board.

Six academics shall be part of this board and shall be composed as follows:

Chairman – COO - Academia (ex-officio)

Deputy Chair – Coordinator ARPB

Members – six faculty members appointed through an internal call and the academic managers (ex-officio)

Secretary- Curriculum Officer (ex-officio)

The Board will discuss and propose the publications of academic and other content that showcases the best of research and competences of both the staff and students at ITS. The Chief Operating Officer - Academia or his/her representative will chair the Board and liaise with the ITS Management for the implementation of the Board proposals.

Members of the Board shall be required to:

- Share ideas and discuss proposals on the publication, both in print and online, of research and other academic initiatives at the Institute;
- Contribute towards the editorial and publication processes in line with their expertise;
- Ensure adherence to high quality academic and publications standards;
- Ensure adherence to the ITS rules and regulations and the ITS vision and strategy.

The Board members shall serve for a period of two years or until they resign from the post. The Management reserves the right to expel any member who does not abide by the ITS rules and regulations or does not make a valid contribution.