Standard 10   Research

A research strategy that is consistent with the nature and mission of the institution should be developed All staff teaching higher education programs are expected to be involved in scholarly activities that ensure they remain up to date with developments in their field, and those developments should be reflected in their teaching. Faculty teaching in post graduate programs or supervising higher degree research students must be actively involved in research in their field. Adequate facilities and equipment must be available to support the research activities of faculty and postgraduate students in areas relevant to the program. Staff research contributions must be recognized and reflected in evaluation and promotion criteria.

Main components of this Standard as Applied to Educational Programs:

Teaching Staff and Student Involvement in Research
Facilities and Equipment

Comment and General Description of Good Practice in Research

Expectations for research involvement vary with the nature of an institution and the kind of program. Universities are expected to have substantial involvement in research and scholarship and their prestige in the international environment will depend on this to a major extent. There is also a separate expectation for research and scholarship relating to the teaching of post-graduate programs, particularly those with a significant research component, since the quality of teaching and learning in those programs is directly affected by the extent to which faculty have current research involvement. It is important that faculty involved in teaching post-graduate research students or supervising their research projects are themselves active scholars and researchers in their field.

At other institutions offering undergraduate programs there are lesser expectations for research. However faculty must still be familiar with the latest developments in their field and the institution should expect them to be involved in appropriate forms of scholarly activity. It should provide an environment in which this is encouraged, and monitor the extent to which it occurs.

If there is a research expectation for faculty or students in the program, either because of the nature of the institution or the particular program concerned there must be an adequate research infrastructure. This will include library and internet communication facilities, laboratories, equipment, and other research facilities relevant to the program. These resources provided must be available for postgraduate research students and faculty as part of normal basic provision.

Faculty should be encouraged to establish links with other institutions both locally and internationally, and, depending on the nature of the program, with industry and appropriate community agencies for cooperative research and development.

In all higher education programs faculty should be encouraged to pursue research interests, and be recognized for having done so even when additional resources cannot be provided to assist them. Regular reports of the research activities of faculty should be prepared, provided to the governing board, and made generally available in the institution..

Evidence and Performance Indicators

Evaluations of the quality of research should include a review of the research strategy for the department or the college, and other supporting documents including details of the extent and quality of research output by staff associated with the program. Evidence about involvement in research can be obtained from staff and from departmental research reports and staff evaluation and promotion criteria. Further evidence can be obtained by consideration of agreements for cooperative research and for shared use of major equipment items. Staff and student surveys can provide evidence about the adequacy of provisions for research facilities and equipment.

Performance indicators for research are commonly based on statistics on the volume of research publications per faculty member, the proportions of research-active teaching staff (a term that needs to be defined) and numbers of research citations–These figures should be compared with those at other

comparable institutions and departments. In institutions with a commitment to research comparisons may include the extent to which research and scholarly activities are translated into applications within the academic or professional field concerned.

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The scales below ask you to indicate whether these practices are followed in your institution and to show how well this is done. Wherever possible evaluations should be based on valid evidence and interpretations supported by independent opinions

Good Practices Relating to This Standard	Is this true? Y/No/NA	How well is this done? (enter stars)
10.1 Teaching Staff and Student Involvement in Research Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities must be made clear and provide for widespread participation. Encouragement and support must be provided to encourage research activity by junior teaching staff and postgraduate students.		
10.1.1 Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified and considered in performance evaluation and promotion criteria. (For universities criteria require at least some research and/or appropriate scholarly activity of all full time teaching staff).	Y	*****
10.1.2 Clear policies are established in the institution for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program. (This normally includes both self-generated and commissioned activity but requires creative original work, independently validated by peers, and published in media recognized internationally in the field of study)	Y	*****
10.1.3 Support is provided for junior staff in the development of their research programs through mechanisms such as mentoring by senior colleagues, inclusion in project teams, assistance in developing research proposals, and seed funding.	Y	*****
10.1.4 Postgraduate research students are given opportunities for participation in joint research projects.	Y	****
10.1.5 When research students are involved in joint research projects their contributions are appropriately acknowledged. When a significant contribution has been made reports and publications carry joint authorship.	Y	****
10.1.6 Assistance is available for teaching staff to develop collaborative research arrangements with colleagues in other institutions and in the international community.	Y	*****
10.1.7 Research and scholarly activities of teaching staff that are relevant to courses they teach are reflected in their teaching together with other significant research developments in the field.	Y	****
10.1.8 Strategies are developed for identifying and capitalizing on the expertise of faculty and postgraduate students in providing research and development services to the community and generating financial returns to the institution.	Y	****
Overall Assessment		****

Comment:

Regarding postgraduate students (point 10.1.4) not all of them are given opportunities for participation in joint research projects. Concerning point 10.1.5, there is no clear policy for that, it is up to the principal investigator of the project (PI). On the other

hand, regarding point 10. 1.8, the department have polices that encourages collaboration between scientists which is clear on the number of co-PI listed on project submitted for funding. Always, there is more than three members of every grant proposal prepared by members of FSN.

Priorities for improvement:

1- Develop a research strategic plan for marketing and applying the research outputs

2- To ensure that the postgraduate research students are given opportunities for participation in joint research projects.

3- To ensure that when research students are involved in joint research projects their contributions are appropriately acknowledged. When a significant contribution has been made reports and publications carry joint authorship.

4- To ensure that the strategies are developed for identifying and capitalizing on the expertise of faculty and postgraduate students in providing research and development services to the community and generating financial returns to the institution..

Independent Opinion

*****

Comment: Individual and collaborative research outputs of teaching staff appear to be substantial. Evidence shows that income drawn from research obtained through external sources are also substantial. In terms of strategic priorities, research has achieved high level of accomplishment.

10.2 Research Facilities and Equipment

Adequate facilities and equipment appropriate for research in the program field of study must be available for use by teaching staff and postgraduate students. Clear policies must be established for ownership and care for specialized facilities and equipment obtained through research grants or cooperation with industry.

10.2.1 Adequate laboratory space and equipment, library and information systems resources are available to support the research activities of faculty and students in the field in which the program is offered.	Y	****
10.2.2 Security systems are established that ensure safety for researchers and their activities, the institutional community and the surrounding region.	Y	***
10.2.3 Policies are established to make clear the ownership and responsibility for maintenance of equipment obtained through faculty research grants, commissioned research or other external sources.	Y	***
10.2.4 Adequate budget and facilities for the conduct of research at a level consistent with institutional, program and departmental policies should be provided.	Y	****

Overall Assessment

****

Comment

Concerning of security systems (10.2.2) and maintenance policies (10.2.3) are already established in the department but they need more developing, more following to be more applicable.

Priorities for improvement:

Continue and expand existing training programs for students and technician on instrument operation and maintenance by developing standard operating procedures for every instrument. Improve the safety system for laboratories and the personal and develop safety procedures similar to those of OSHA.

Independent Opinion

****

Comment: Research facilities and equipment of the department are sufficiently adequate to support research activities of faculty and students. Security systems are established to ensure safety for researchers and their activities.

Overall Assessment of Research

10.1 Teaching Staff and Student Involvement in Research

****

10.2 Research Facilities and Equipment

****

Combined Assessment

****

Comment: Teaching staff and student are involved in the research activities of
 the department, except when their teaching load does not allow
Research facilities and equipment of the department are comparable to other
International universities.

Independent Opinion

****

Comment: Teaching staff are actively involved in research and scholarly activities to remain up-to-date with developments in the field. Further, there is high success rate
 in obtaining research grants and publications. A major reason for this success is the adequacy of funding and acquisition of appropriate equipment from the university and/or through grants from government and private institutions.

Indicators Considered

1.Research publication of teaching staff
2.Number of research
3. Financial support for research

Priorities for Improvement

1.   Initiate a PhD program in the department.

2.   Allocate more space for equipments and working benches
3.   Develop a plan for marketing the research outputs.
4.   Specific areas of excellence in research needs to be identified
5.   Priority in research should be to project with direct impact on the local economy and sustainable development plan of the kingdom.
6.   Provide support for junior faculty to kick off their research programs and facilitate interaction with more senior colleagues by inclusion in existing research teams, assistance in writing research proposals.

7. Ensure that the assistance is available for teaching staff to develop collaborative research arrangements with colleagues in other local institutions and international community.