



# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE (UWC)

## RESEARCH POLICY SECTION 4: INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

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UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE

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## RESEARCH POLICY

### SECTION 4: INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

International research partnerships are at the core of the functioning of the modern university. The growth in international research collaboration is significantly enabled by the enlargement of the sphere of technology in education. While there is a need for encouraging and supporting research collaboration across the institution, it is also imperative to take cognizance of the University's priorities in this broader sphere of knowledge production. The balance is crucial to UWC if it is to support and enable further research partnerships in keeping with the University's strategic vision of building a post-apartheid society, while simultaneously becoming a world leader in identified niche areas.

UWC's approach to fostering effective international partnerships is shaped by our understanding of internationalization of research. To encourage international research partnerships, the University undertakes to create enabling conditions in which such partnerships will flourish. Our point of departure is the changing context in which the modern university functions.

The rapid introduction of technology in education has facilitated an increasing global exchange of ideas. It has also provided opportunities for re-envisioning research applicable to our specific contexts. The current practice of symbolic inter-institutional partnerships with Universities needs to be developed in the direction of promoting new forms of scholarly exchange that would contribute to our mission as an institution that re-imagines our world anew. UWC will strive to build meaningful partnerships that deepen our commitments to comprehending and responding to South African and African contexts. As a University responsive to building a post-apartheid future, UWC envisages international research partnerships that seek to harness the best traditions of scholarly exchange while averting the risks of dependence that often follows from historically entrenched structural inequities between institutions in the north and south. In the spirit of scholarly exchange, UWC will strive to forge new models for critical exchange by extending our current relations to include institutions in Asia, Latin America and the African continent.

Forging new critical models for scholarly exchange requires an ongoing elaboration of research ethics and principles, especially in our approaches to human subject research and community and public engagements. In these respective endeavours, the University encourages the exchange of ideas rather than the more alienating structures of knowledge built upon earlier practices of extraction, expropriation and narrowly defined notions of academic expertise. These ethical considerations should be at the core of decisions about research partnerships.

International research partnerships should mostly be organic in their constitution and programming. To this end the University encourages individual research initiatives as well as other institutional partnerships involving Centres and Institutes in establishing international research networks.

At the same time, the need to support research partnerships at an institutional level has to be coordinated and monitored in keeping with the University's strategic plans. For a greater organization of research partnerships at the institutional level, the following steps are suggested:

- An audit of all existing international research initiatives, including a proper database of current income, costs to the University, research output and growth of the project.
- Recording of major lectures by guest lecturers from partner institutions for the purposes of building the UWC Collection in conjunction with the UWC archivist.
- Ethics approval for international research projects through appropriate University structures.
- The incorporation of international research projects in the internal review processes of departments/schools.
- Prior notification to the Research Office of funding proposals for international research initiatives.
- A consolidation of research initiatives through the establishment of a partnership database.

International research partnerships are crucial for UWC's emergence as a major research institution in Africa. Building on an ever-expanding base of existing international research partnerships, the immediate goal is to facilitate institutional recognition and the strengthening of this all-important sphere of research.

International research partnerships offer avenues for research capacity development, the dissemination of research findings and for producing new research platforms upon which we might grow new visions and chart new directions for our society and the world more broadly. Hence, it is necessary that the University creates an enabling environment to foster such partnerships.

While growing as a global research institution, it is important that UWC strengthens its impact on a national level. Partnerships with South African Higher Education Institutions, Science Councils, National Research Facilities and Industry will enhance the University's capacity to undertake research and development through shared costs, joint funding proposals, external funding, endowed chairs, joint postgraduate supervision, etc. Hence, such national partnerships must be established as and when opportunities arise.

