
UNIVERSITY INNOVATION & STARTUP POLICY (UISP 2022-23)

A Guiding Framework for Innovations, Startups and
Entrepreneurships

OP Jindal University, Punjipathra, Raigarh (C.G.)
September, 2022

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Terminology
3. Innovation and Startup Policy
 - 3.1 Vision
 - 3.2 Objectives and Scope
 - 3.3 Strategies and Governance
 - 3.4 Startups Enabling Infrastructure
 - 3.5 Faculty/Staff and Student support for startups
 - 3.6 Product Ownership Rights
 - 3.7 Entrepreneurial Impact Assessment and Review
4. References



1. Introduction:

National Innovation and Startup Policy-2019 (NISP) for faculty and students of Higher Education Institution (HEI) is initiated by Ministry of Education Innovation Cell (MIC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). To embrace the NISP, OP Jindal University, Raigarh has formed this policy with the objective to create a vibrant ecosystem for innovations and startups development.

The policy aims to identify the frugal innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs among the university and nurture them for further targeted development. The ecosystem caters the needs of different stakeholders at regional, national and international level and provide the benefits to society at large.

The startup ecosystem growth has also brought together faculty members and students across institutions and universities in India to collaborate and start their own ventures. Increasingly, research work is being translated into commercial ventures. This policy helps to collaborate with various universities and industries for the generation of IPRs and promotion of entrepreneurship.

In summary, this policy document provides guidelines to actively support faculty members and students to participate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) related activities. This policy document will also evolve with time and adopt best practices to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship.

Governing Council:

For Preparing The Framework on University Innovation & Start-Up Policy:

S.No.	Role In Committee	Name
1.	Chairman	Dr. R.D. Patidar, Vice Chancellor, OPJU
2.	Members	Dr. Saket Jeswani, Assistant Dean, School of Management, OPJU, NISP Coordinator
3.		Dr. Sidharth Chakrabarti, Director, Centre for Industry Academia Collaboration, OPJU
4.		Dr. Girish Mishra, Dean, School of Science, OPJU
5.		Dr. S. Nayak, Director, Career Development Centre, OPJU
6.		Dr. Deepayan Priyadarshi, Chief Executive Officer, OPJU Innovation Center
7.		Dr. Himanshu Vaishnav, Chief Marketing Officer, OPJU Innovation Center
8.		Dr. Sandeep Biswal, Sr. Asst. Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, OPJU





OPJU

9.		Dr. Vatsala Chaturvedi, Sr. Asst. Professor, Department of Metallurgical Engineering, OPJU
10.		Mr. Akash Pandey, Sr. Asst. Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, OPJU
11.	External Member (From Incubator)	Member Nearby Mr. Sweekar Pawar, Head, 36inc, Raipur
12.	External Member (Industry/Research Body)	Mr. Bhavesh Kumar, Managing Director, VIAS3D India

2. Terminology:

- **“University”** shall mean “OP JINDAL University”.
- **“UISP”** means University Innovation and Startup Policy.
- **“Governing Council”** shall mean the University level entity to be established in accordance with the provision of this Policy
- **“Faculty Member”** shall mean a regular faculty member of OP Jindal University.
- **“Student”** shall mean a full-time student studying at OPJU.
- **“Staff Member”** shall mean any permanent regular employee of OPJU other than a regular faculty member, on duty or leave, faculty on tenure, research associates, post-doctoral fellows and students having valid a valid association/registration with the university.
- **“Startup”** is an entity that develops a business model based on either product innovation or service innovation and makes it scalable, replicable and self-reliant as defined in Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 127(E) dated February 19, 2019 or as per the prevailing notifications of the Government of India issued from time to time. The current definition of start-up is an
- **“Equity share”** also commonly referred to as ordinary share, represents the form of fractional or part ownership in which a shareholder, as a fractional owner, undertakes the maximum entrepreneurial risk associated with a business venture. The holders of such shares are members of the company and have voting rights.



OP JINDAL UNIVERSITY

OP Jindal Knowledge Park, Punjipathra, Raigarh - 496109, (C.G.)

t: +91 7762 304 000 www.opju.ac.in

3. Innovation and Startup Policy

3.1 Vision:

“To develop a resourceful innovation and startup ecosystem and facility that will nurture innovative, socially relevant ventures, strengthening local and national economies and benefitting mankind at large.”

3.2 Objectives and Scope:

The objectives of the Innovation and Startup Policy are to -

- a) Enable the faculty, staff and students of the University to participate in innovation and entrepreneurship activities,
- b) Encourage them to develop entrepreneurship and startup as a career option
- c) Promote the novel ideas
- d) Search the funding ideas and angel investors and venture capitalist

Long Term Objectives:

- I. To establish an innovation hub with world class pre-incubation facilities in collaboration with government funding agencies and ecosystem enablers.
- II. To inculcate a culture of innovation and strong entrepreneurship capabilities among students and faculty members to incubate successful startups through university's incubation facility
- III. To facilitate good number of technology transfers, technology licensing and commercialization of technologies developed by faculty members and students.
- IV. Optimizing the use of resources towards innovation and entrepreneurship leading to attainment of higher ranks in various rankings of Government of India and other reputed agencies.



Short Term Objectives:

- I. To encourage participation of students in various competitions involving innovation and business plan competitions and organize boot camps /Hackathons in campus at least twice a year.
- II. To encourage faculty members to attend and organize workshops /trainings /certificate courses on innovations, entrepreneurship, IPR and venture development.
- III. To develop a performance matrix to assess the contributions of faculty members/staff towards innovation and entrepreneurship and incentivize / reward the top performers on annual basis.
- IV. To connect academic processes with innovation and entrepreneurship.

APPLICABILITY OF UISP 2021:

This policy applies to any person who receives any direct or indirect benefit under the programme as per the provision of the university Innovation and Startups Policy

- i. All University faculty, students, and staff members
- ii. All alumni of the university
- iii. Local industry in the entrepreneurship and startup activities
- iv. Any other person approved by the UISP-2021 Governing Council

3.3 Strategies and Governance:

- I. Entrepreneurship promotion and development is one of the key dimensions of the university's vision and strategy. The university will use the ARIIA ranking framework to set objectives and track the different performance indicators and guide actions.
- II. The entrepreneurial agenda of the university will be the responsibility of the Deans of different schools, Directors of the different Center of



- Excellences and Head, Innovation Center. Since promoting entrepreneurship requires a different type of mindset as compared to other academic activities, this role may be staffed by a faculty or staff or external hire who understands the industry and above all business.
- III. Resource mobilization plan should be worked out at the university for supporting pre-incubation, incubation infrastructure and facilities. A sustainable financial strategy should be defined in order to reduce the organizational constraints to work on the entrepreneurial agenda.
 - IV. Investment in the entrepreneurial activities should be a part of the university financial strategy. The university will create a separate **'Innovation Fund'** and work towards allocating a minimum 1% fund of the total annual budget of the university for funding and supporting innovation and startups related activities.
 - V. The strategy should also involve raising funds from diverse sources to reduce dependency on the public funding. Bringing in external funding through government (state and central) such as DST, DBT, MHRD, AICTE, TDB, TIFAC, MeitY, MSDE, MSME, etc. and non-government sources should be encouraged.
 - VI. To support technology incubators, academic institution may approach private and corporate sectors to generate funds, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as per Section 135 of the Company Act 2013.
 - VII. University may also raise funding through sponsorships and donations. University should actively engage alumni network for promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship.
 - VIII. Importance of innovation and entrepreneurial agenda should be known across the university and should be promoted and highlighted at university programs such as conferences, convocations, workshops, etc.



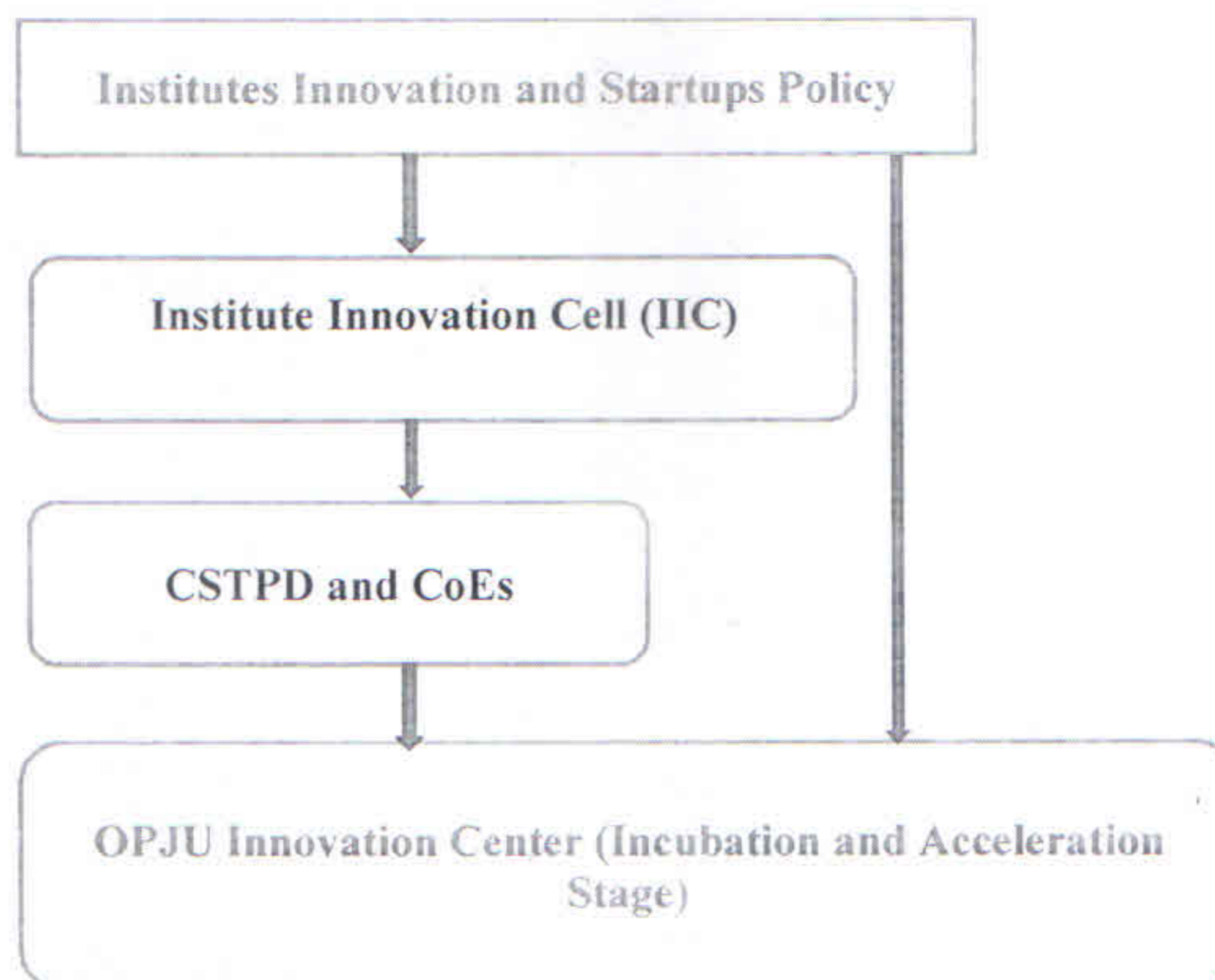
IX. The University Innovation Council comprising student and faculty representatives will play an important role in the above, along with student clubs.

The major focus of IIC will be:

- To create a vibrant innovation ecosystem.
- Startup / Entrepreneurship supporting activities for students and faculty.
- Prepare university for Atal Ranking of university on Innovation Achievements Framework (ARIIA).
- Establish an ecosystem for scouting ideas and pre-incubator for ideas.

Policy Implementation Structure:

University will implement this policy with the following structure of Governance:



3.4 Startup Enabling Infrastructure:

Infrastructure:

The following Infrastructure will be mobilized to support innovation and entrepreneurships at university:

- i. OPJU Innovation Center: An advanced incubation and pre-incubation facility with high end Fab Lab facility for prototyping, and proof of concept.



- ii. Center for Sustainable Technologies and Product Development (CSTPD)
Center of Excellences:
 - a. CoE – Industry 4.0 for technology innovation
 - b. CoE – Welding Technology
 - c. CoE -- Steel Technology
 - d. CoE -- Logistic Management
 - e. CoE -- Power Electronics
- iii. High end Research Labs of different Departments of the university

Support System:

The university shall support the staff members and the students in innovation and entrepreneurship related activities in the form of seed funding, mentoring, motivation and incentives as detailed in the following sub sections.

Use of University Resources:

- i. **Use of Resources by college staff and students:** The staff members and students are allowed to use the college resources such as laboratories, research centres and other such facilities for their innovation and entrepreneurship activities. Certain facilities and instruments which are highly specialized will be charged nominally through OPJU Innovation Center (OPJUIC). The use of space, resources and incubation facilities availed at will be governed as per the norms of the OPJUIC, if used.
- ii. **Use of Resources by External Agencies and Alumni:** The internal resources of the college are generally not accessible to anyone who is not associated with the college either as an employee or a student. When involving external agencies and collaborators, permission from the faculty in charge or department head will be required duly forwarded by OPJUIC. This is applicable for the alumni of the college as well.

Seed funding:



The university may provide funding support in the form of seed grant to aspiring student innovators to develop early-stage prototypes. The ideas for funding will be identified through an CRE and IIC expert committee set up for the purpose and the funds will be channelized through IIC. IIC will be provided with a budget by the university to manage the activities. This allocation will be reflected in the university budget. Inter-disciplinary clusters Cross departmental linkages shall be given special preference while selecting the ideas for seed funding. Hence, it is encouraged to form inter-disciplinary innovation clusters in order to gain maximum utilization of internal resources and knowledge.

Mentorship and Guidance:

University will provide necessary mentorship and guidance for supporting innovation and entrepreneurship through IIC. An ICT based Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I & E) Toolkit will be developed and made available for public access to faculty members and students of the university through web and mobile user interfaces.

IIC will create and maintain a collaborative online platform for linking student start-ups so that they may be able to share their challenges, to link with suitable mentors and to catalyse cross pollination of innovative ideas and to leverage complimentary resources and skill sets.

Services:

The OPJU Innovation Centre would assist in providing the following services:

- i. Company registration and filings
- ii. Trained manpower for hiring (our students)
- iii. Intellectual Property (Copyrights, Trade Marks, Patent) filings (tie-up with IP Attorney firm)
- iv. Training/Conferences/Workshops



- v. Seed Funding information and handholding
- vi. Governmental Agency funding
- vii. Networking and linkages with mentors, funding, technical expertise, Venture capitalists / Angels / Investors Introductions
- viii. Entrepreneurship meets.

3.5 Faculty/staff and Students Support for Startup Activity:

Supporting students in innovation and entrepreneurship related activities will be considered as a legitimate activity of the faculty members of the university in addition to teaching, R&D projects, industrial consultancy and other administrative duties. Senior faculty members are encouraged to mentor at least one startup in a year. Faculty members participation in workshops / training programmes / certificate courses on Innovations, Entrepreneurship, IPR and venture development would be encouraged so that they get better equipped to mentor the aspiring student entrepreneurs. Product development and commercialization as well as nurturing of startups would be added to a bucket of faculty duties and such mentoring activities will be suitably motivated, rewarded and reflected in annual performance appraisal policy of the university. The role of the faculty members in student startups may vary from being mentors, expert consultants or as technology advisor.

Faculty members may dedicate up to **six working days** per month for the start-up related activities with due permission from the concerned Head of the Department and/or the Head of the University. However, it is to be ensured that academic work of teaching, assessments, examinations and research activities are not affected at any cost.



Norms for Faculty/Staff members involvement:

- Faculty member and staff are allowed to take off for a semester / year as sabbatical leave for working on startups and come back.
- The seniority and other academic benefits during such period may be preserved for such staff or faculty.
- As per AICTE guidelines Part-time/full time MS/ MBA/ PGDM (Innovation, entrepreneurship and venture development) program are encouraged where one can get degree while incubating and nurturing a startup company.
- faculty/ staff are allowed to use university infrastructure and facilities, as per the choice of the potential entrepreneur based on availability and following the lab norms.
- As per guidelines, in return of the services and facilities, university may take 2% to 9.5% equity/ stake in the startup/ company, based on brand used, faculty contribution, support provided and use of university's IPR (a limit of 9.5% is suggested so that university has no legal liability arising out of startup).
- Our university takes much lower equity share, unless its full-time faculty/ staff have substantial shares). The factors for consideration should be space, infrastructure, mentorship support, seed funds, support for accounts, legal, patents etc.
- Our university provides services based on mixture of equity, fee-based and/ or zero payment model. So, a startup may choose to avail the resources support, by the university on rental basis also.
- Participation in startup related activities is considered as a legitimate activity of faculty in addition to teaching, R&D projects, and industrial consultancy and management duties. It will be considered while evaluating the annual performance of the faculty.



- Every faculty may be encouraged to mentor at least one startup, Product development and commercialization as well as participating and nurturing of startups would now be added to faculty-duties and each faculty would choose a mix and match of these activities and then respective faculty are evaluated accordingly for their performance and promotion.
- Human subject related research in startup should get clearance from ethics committee of our institution.
- Faculty must not involve research staff or other staff of institute in activities at the startup and vice-versa.

Norms for Students Startups:

In order to prepare the interested students to transform themselves as budding entrepreneurs, integration of innovation and entrepreneurship activities with academic processes will be exercised in a slow and steady pace with due diligence. Students are free to dedicate any time outside their regular academic hours and duties towards their companies. Interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary areas will be given special preference. This has to be approved by the university expert committee and subsequently ratified by the Academic Council.

During their enrolment, the students will be allowed to be owners of the companies, be a Director on the Board or be employed in a staff member led company. Also, they may be free to play an operational role like Technical Advisor, CEO, CTO, MD etc. However, academic work is not to be compromised and startups related activities are permissible towards final/prefinal year of their studies. The designation used are notional and do not change the status of student for any other purpose.



- Students who are under incubation, pursuing some entrepreneurial ventures while studying are allowed to use their address in the university to register their company with due permission.
- As per guidelines, in return of the services and facilities, university may take 1% to 3% equity/ stake in the start-up/ company.
- Students' entrepreneurs are allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less than the minimum permissible percentage, with due permission
- Students are allowed to take a semester/year break to work on their start-ups and re-join academics to complete the course in the maximum allowed limit as per UGC/AICTE norms.
- Student entrepreneurs may earn academic credits for their efforts while creating an enterprise. A review committee is framed by our university for review of start up by students, and appropriate credits for academics can be awarded based on the progress made.
- Undergraduate, post graduate students and PhD scholars may be allowed to base their startup on their project, thesis or dissertation with due approval from their respective supervisors.
- Students are allowed to use university infrastructure and facilities as per provided concerned department's permissions and based on availability.
- **Part time** research scholar can seek permission from university to work for a start-up on a part-time basis. The university part-time engagement norms in research during a semester/vacation period will apply. Students who are under incubation, but are pursuing some entrepreneurial ventures while studying should be allowed to use their address in the university to register their company with due permission from the university



Tenure in Incubation Centre:

Companies will be permitted to stay in the incubation centre, to begin with, for a period of 24 months that may be extended to another 12 (6+6) months after review at each stage. A nominal monthly charge will be levied to a company for this period of 36 months based on the utilized services.

3.6 Product Ownership Rights -

FOR TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED AT UNIVERSITY

- IPR is developed in our university as a part of academic activity then it is owned by inventors and the University.
- If product/ IPR are developed by innovators not using any university facilities, outside office hours or not as a part of curriculum by student, then product/ IPR will be entirely owned by inventors in proportion to the contributions made by them. In this case, inventors can decide to license the technology to third parties or use the technology the way they deem fit.
- If there is a dispute in ownership, a minimum five-member committee consisting of two faculty members, two of the university's alumni/ industry experts and one legal advisor with experience in IPR will examine the issue after meeting the inventors and help them settle this, hopefully to everybody's satisfaction.
- In case of university to pay for patent filing, a committee can examine whether the IPR is worth patenting. If inventors are using their own funds or non-university funds, then they alone have a say in patenting.
- Proposals for Government and Non-Government Funds for research activities, seed money funds are to be actively applied by the faculty members of the University.



3.7 Entrepreneurial Impact Assessment and Review:

Impact Assessment:

Impact of the policy will be assessed by the ranking provided by the AICTE and MHRD under IIC, ARIIA and NIRF.

Review of Policy:

This policy is as per the MHRD's National Innovation and Startup policy 2019 for students and faculty members and CG Government startup policy 2020 based on the change in these policies time to time. This policy is subject to the review once in 3 years. However, minor amendments can be done as and when necessary and whenever policy changes are introduced in the central and state government start up policies. The university is empowered to make suitable changes in policies and introduce new policies as and when found necessary.

4. References

1. National INNOVATION and STARTUP Policy 2019 for Students and Faculty MHRD, GOI www.mhrd.gov.in / www.mic.gov.in
2. Chhattisgarh Startup Policy 2019-www.industries.cg.gov.in/startupcg
3. Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship, Policy and Framework, Indian University of Technology, Indian School of Mines (Dhanbad), September 2018.

