



Georgian American University, LLC  
Research Strategy

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## I. Introduction

The development of the country largely depends on the availability of education and the provision of quality appropriate to its modern requirements.

Georgian American University, LLC is currently in the process of implementing an updated institutional strategy in the field of science and research. The development of an updated science strategy has been dictated by the objectives of both external objective factors and the assessment and development of internal University environments.

The role of the present strategy is to show to our University community inside and to all existing and potential partners outside that the University has and manages a pre-defined course and appropriate implementation mechanisms.

## II. The basis and purpose of strategy development

The aim of the research strategy is to define the strategy and vision of the University in the field of research, thus, on the one hand, to promote the institutional viability, appropriate status and, on the other hand, to take into account the highly decentralized nature of the University idea and content.

The development of a strategy and the definition of an appropriate course are determined by the unequal approaches of state research funding to the public and private sector Higher Educational Institutions.

The main means of obtaining funding for research from the state is to participate in the grant competition held by the Ministry of Education and Science, a legal entity under public law - the National Science Foundation. However, there is no uniform approach or parity in this area.

It is also important to respond to the trend, which is reflected in increased competition.

Of course, the provision and development of quality is an important factor in the need for strategy.

Accordingly, our goal with this strategy is to make research more dynamic, inspiring, viable and to have real connections within the community to be able to positively influence its current and future challenges.

Our goal is to achieve a state of research and innovative activity where new knowledge generated by the University contributes to addressing societal challenges.

The integration of new knowledge into the learning process will be continuous and renewed.

Further it will provide the University Research Resource with the opportunity to effectively transcend spatial boundaries and gain access to and be integral with advanced Western scientific research trends and products.

In view of the above, the University has taken some successful steps. This year, the Scientific Research Institute for Constitutionalism and Democracy of the School of Law, Social Sciences and Diplomacy has become the exclusive partner and implementer of the ESS (European Social Survey) in the country, which further increases the responsibility of the institution in the field of scientific research, research funding opportunities and, at the same time, significantly determines the issue of raising its scientific-research reputation.

Finally, the strategy aims to provide coordinated and effective management of research and science to achieve high quality modern research activities and products. The strategy in the University management of research and science involves the development and implementation of a University policy that correlates with the external and internal challenges of Georgian science, which focuses on the support of the University, its structural units, quality and result-oriented coordinated activities.

The strategy should ensure consistency and purposefulness to stimulate the development of research science, which is reflected in existing and future activities that include:

- a. Effective operation of the organizational and regulatory space of research and science and development according to its needs;
- b. Expanding the realities of internal and external coordination of scientific research activities;
- c. Effective development of existing research models and its permanent improvement.
- d. Planned implementation and expansion of research and development mechanisms, support and incentives for research and scholarship, and related activities.

Finally, the strategy is aimed at effective implementation of research science to positively impact existing and essentially the future development of society.

### III. The basis of strategy development

The development of this strategy is based on the Law of Georgia on Science, Technology and Development, which defines the basic principles of science management in Georgia, as well as other national legislation and relevant regulations in this field.

The state audit report on the evaluation of science and research in the country is also provided;

The strategy takes into account: the findings of the Institute of Planning Policy, Planning and Management; and studies by experts and organizations in other fields; and the knowledge of the University itself and its accumulated experience in the field of science and research.

#### IV. Strategy

Based on the above, the strategy of the University in the field of research means striving to strengthen its research potential and reputation, to make even more intensive and public the capabilities of our scientific research resource and the results of their research.

#### V. Mechanisms to support research and innovation activities

Research management and research functions are divided into the following mechanisms to achieve the scientific research goals and objectives set out in this strategy:

##### *1. Scientific Council*

The Scientific Council is a collegial body for the development and support of scientific research activities at the Georgian American University, whose main function is to assess the realities of scientific research activities, determine the priorities and strategy of scientific research activities, to issue relevant recommendations and to put forward appropriate motions before the relevant structures and officials.

##### **Joint competencies of the Scientific and Academic Councils:**

In order to support and develop scientific research activities, and in order to increase coordination and cooperation of University structures in this regard, it was considered expedient to involve the second body of collegial management of the University - the Academic Council, in the management of scientific activities.

To this end, a mechanism for joint meetings and joint decision-making of academic and scientific councils has been introduced. The existence of such a mechanism strategically ensures that important governing bodies of the University concentrate on supporting and developing research activities.

The joint decisions taken at their joint sessions will significantly facilitate the University's response to public and state challenges, the relationship between research and science, and the challenges facing other contemporary research. This mechanism is unique to the University with no other precedents yet.

The Academic and Scientific Councils will decide in joint sessions on the following issues that are strategically important for the research:

- a) University research priorities;
- b) Internal University standards for research and innovation;
- c) other issues within the authority of the Academic Council and the Scientific Council, if a joint sitting and a joint decision are required by at least the composition of the Academic Council and / or the Scientific Council.

The decision at the joint session shall be made by open voting by a majority of those present. The joint decision is made in the form of a resolution, which is signed by the Chairmen of the Academic and Scientific Councils.

## *2. School (Faculty)*

The school is the main educational-scientific and administrative unit of the Georgian American University in which the relevant scientific-research units are structurally integrated, relevant scientific resources are occupied and research is carried out.

## *3. Research Development and Support Service*

The University Research Development and Support Office ensures the promotion of scientific and research activities at the University, the planning of relevant incentive and support activities, and the search for funding for scientific research activities within its competence.

The Service cooperates with the school in the basic educational unit in the exercise of its powers.

## *4. University Quality Assurance Service*

The University Quality Assurance Service is involved in and provides systematic evaluation of the quality of scientific research activities and facilitates the development of quality research activities.

## *5. Co-participation in the system of auxiliary bodies of the University*

In the process of planning the scientific research activities of the University, the implementation of the research priorities, goals and objectives and the evaluation process, other relevant auxiliary bodies of the University are involved and participate due to the tasks of the research management.

## 6. *Research Institute*

A research institute is a research structural unit created on the basis of University Schools where relevant research is carried out according to defined priorities, fields and disciplines.

## 7. *Scientific clusters / groups*

A research group is a group of scientists involved in the work of a specific research project and / or a research center. The research team includes the involvement of academics of various ranks, which will facilitate the participation of young researchers and students in the research.

The research team can work on one project or several projects. The research team can function both collaboratively and hierarchically. In turn, team research activities can be based on the implementation of both qualitative and quantitative research projects, or the use of mixed methodology.

The academic activities of the research team can be both research-oriented and practice-oriented.

By creating a research cluster, the cluster will try to collaborate with research centers and various research subjects across the country and the region. This will increase the scale of research and the ability of the University, its science and researchers to deal with and cross the frontiers of research and to explore common topical issues with other institutions and scientists.

This will also significantly contribute to the integration of the University's interdisciplinary research groups, which will unite the research centers and institutes of the University.

The strategy for the existence of a research cluster is to deepen academic ties and collaboration between scientists and researchers working in various scientific fields and thus contribute to the formation of a strong scientific network at the University. It also aims to seek both internal and external scientific funding for joint (inter-institutional) projects.

The activities of the University Research Cluster are based on a Strategic Plan jointly created by the University Academic Team in collaboration with and in agreement with the Academic Council.

## VI. Values

1. Effective management of scientific research activities
2. Interdisciplinary aspect of scientific research activities
3. Internationalization of research
4. Inclusiveness
5. Promoting early career development
6. Involvement/participation

7. Possibility of influence
8. Awareness of ethics
9. Partnership

## VII. Objectives and landmarks of research activities

Expanding the research environment and promoting the introduction of modern standards for research activities in terms of scientific and technological progress and methodological requirements for research have been identified as priorities for the strategic period of the University.

On the one hand, due to the development of scientific and technical progress, and on the other hand, due to the existing inequality in funding and support of research activities in the country, the University in the next strategic period aims to modernize research activities by formulating and producing adequate and effective research policies.

By mobilizing internal and external resources, the institution will contribute to the realization of its aspiration to carry out such scientific-research and innovative activities within the existing reality, which will contribute to economic, social, cultural and other innovative developments.

Further, it will integrate this type of activity and its results into the teaching activities of the University, thus making it even more attractive to both youth and other socio-economic agents.

Accordingly, the question arises here what are the specific orientations and goals that the University should achieve as a result of performing various strategic tasks:

### I. Support for scientific research and its expansion; How to achieve the following:

a. Today, the quality of scientific-research activities is very important, therefore, the continuous development of the existing University standards is critically important. When we set a minimum University standard and requirements, this means that in a particular case, based on the University's teaching scientific views, this standard may be higher than the external standards. Even within the framework of setting such University standards, the University certainly ensures and protects the academic freedom and autonomy of research subjects;

b. The University will pay special attention to the improvement of the quality of research activities and will exert permanent and strict guidance and control.

c. The University is well aware of the issues of academic good faith and academic freedom, both for the research process and its results. The aim of the given strategy is to focus on the research and innovation activities issue, to constantly develop effective mechanisms for strengthening and ensuring the relevant standards and implement them effectively;



d. Modern global, regional and local challenges interact dramatically in today's world. Georgia, as a society with the goal of European integration, a country that seeks to establish and strengthen Western democratic standards, has a significant impact on this integration orbit, which also has a sharp impact on the domestic and international issues of our public interests and challenges.

In this case, Universities have a crucial and important role to play in this regard. Accordingly, our strategic vision serves to ensure that we maximally support the University's research resources in conducting research focused on challenges at different levels and scales of society and the state. including: Increase the interest and connections of scientific staff and research structures with external social, political, economic and cultural agents.

Increase the interest and connections of scientific staff and research structures with external social, political, economic and cultural agents.

e. The University is constantly developing various mechanisms to initiate research projects and increase the motivation to participate in research. The picture of the scientific potential of the University and its results essentially depends on the active involvement of its scientific-research resource. To ensure maximum involvement, the University is constantly developing incentive and support mechanisms and activities;

f. The University will make the most of its proximity to the Constitutionalism and Democracy Research Center and its cooperation with the ESS (European Social Survey). This includes new opportunities to get involved in new research and projects at the University. This will increase the visibility of universities and the ability to create certain competitive advantages.

g. The University will facilitate access to research on University infrastructure. In general, and in the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the University will ensure the implementation of scientific activities in the online format, data protection and storage in digital format and their access and availability;

h. The University will continually update or develop its research capabilities.

II. In order to increase the practical relevance of scientific research results and the commercialization and dissemination of research, we must achieve: Increasing contacts with private, governmental and non-governmental, other non-University centers, and the general public. Expansion of interdisciplinary studies:

a. Further and planned support for the University Scientific-Research Centers to carry out joint scientific-research activities with relevant organizations, institutions, other relevant and relevant entities.

b. Use new and innovative methods of scientific research activities and promote the creation of short-term interdisciplinary scientific groups and clusters through them. Combining science and

researchers interested in interdisciplinary issues will create more opportunities and interest for quality interdisciplinary research.

This will be the best answer for both the research problem and the development of each field. It will enable us to respond in a timely and adequate manner to the issues and topics in today's rapidly changing world; and further, it will promote the involvement of higher education in solving public or state problems.

c. By increasing measures for academic research, science in general, we will achieve:

1. Increase University awareness at various levels.
2. Encourage researchers to speak to target groups and a wider audience about their research findings;
3. An important strategy of the University will be to assist and develop research communications of researchers and research structures in general, including the active operation of the University Scientific Research Information Sets;
4. The popularization of research is important in increasing the attractiveness of the University and in recruiting the current academic and student contingent;
5. Academic research activities will be conducted for the general public and various social agents, including events to popularize science among the general public and youth.
6. An important task of the research strategy is to conduct interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary research within the collaborative body of various schools and institutions in this field which will increase their ability to effectively overcome more complex and broader tasks within research and collaboration.

In this regard, the University's support of the creation of interdisciplinary short-term research groups and clusters will significantly increase funding opportunities for such research and help generate collective research knowledge.

### III. Ensure maximum integration of scientific research and the learning process:

a. Strengthening research components within all educational programs with an emphasis on first- and second-level programs. In this direction, the participation of students and researchers in various scientific events will increase. With such emphases, special importance will be given to the requirements of quality service monitoring and consideration of its consequences.

b. Improving the quality of Doctoral and Master studies. Priority is given to issues such as the existence and strengthening of appropriate links between doctoral and postgraduate education, and the maintenance and development of existing requirements and standards.

Further strengthening and expanding the links between Doctoral and Postgraduate teaching and the University research environment. Creating more and more opportunities to involve Doctoral and Postgraduate students in research projects.

c. Permanent and continuous improvement of quality assurance mechanisms and evaluation system of research activities. Using control and evaluation mechanisms, results will allow refinement of both the mechanisms for evaluating the productivity of scientific resources, as well as the relevant regulatory space.

d. Integrate research results and the activities of research institutes into the University teaching process. This field includes large-scale activities and envisages activities from the leadership of course and conference topics at all levels, from completed Research Institutes, to the direct participation of scientists involved in various projects in the implementation of academic programs.

e. Promoting academic positions containing a research component should thus ensure a substantial and close link between teaching and research. This will greatly facilitate and encourage the production of a new generation of scientists and researchers.

f. In this context and in general, the strategy of increasing importance is the recruitment of highly professional and authoritative scientific and academic staff.

g. Expand the policy of mutual benefit and enrichment of research and teaching, which includes the involvement of higher level scientific and research staff, including lower bachelor's level.

#### IV. By promoting the internationalization of research activities, we will achieve:

a. Implementation of more intensive and planned activities for scientific-academic staff for international cooperation. Facilitate academic dissemination and learn from each other the principle of effective use. More cooperation will be necessary with our Western counterparts. Strengthen internationalization component will be further strengthen by sharing their experiences and expanding collaboration.

### VIII. Research Costs and Welfare (Incomes Received)

The University will ensure to develop and measure the dynamics of revenues from the scientific and research activities. Which will provide the sustainability and strength of the scientific research units and the relevance of their results and resources.

### IX. Promoting and establishing a new generation of scientific research

The strategy of scientific research activities includes such an important topic as the issue of educating future scientific staff. Accordingly, the University develops and measures indicators such as the ratio of the scientific academic resource to the individuals on the research level and others engaged in the various types of research activities.

## X. Research Results

The study results are subject to measurability, evaluation and are regulated by external and internal evaluation mechanisms and criteria.