



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Policy Title – Policy on Encouraging and Rewarding Student Innovation

Policy Number - 05

Functional Area – Academic Research

Effective and Revised Date – 08.11.2018

Approving Authority – The Council, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Administrative Responsibility –Senior Academics/Heads of Departments and Deans of the Faculties/Research Council

Rationale & Purpose –

University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) recognizes the critical role played by innovations in enhancing its contribution to national and global development and in realizing its mission of *‘developing globally competent citizens through education drawing inspirations from the cultural heritage and wisdom to form a sustainable future’*

Innovation involves risk-taking and it is supported by a culture which is open to experimentation, and to learn from mistakes

This policy on student innovations is designed to create a framework/ platform/ environment to;

- a) Inspire the university students to apply innovative approaches/ adapt new techniques/improve existing techniques, products and processes to address prevailing issues in their chosen fields of study, and to take part in innovation competitions, and
- b) Enable the university to award due recognition and rewards to the student innovators.
- c) Capture, implement and manage innovative ideas. It is also designed to underpin the USJP's agreed value of Initiative: We embrace all ideas, not just those which lead to successful innovation, and reward enterprising and innovative ideas; encourage students and staff to respond creatively to challenges through continuous improvement processes.

Policy Statement –

USJP will encourage its students to apply innovative ideas/ approaches/ methods or adapt new techniques/improve existing techniques, products and processes in their chosen fields of study to address issues.

For this purpose, the USJP will provide necessary assistance in the following forms:

- Provision of an attractive stipend /research support to postgraduate research students during the research study period.
- Providing guidance and support to successful student inventors to apply for Patent rights
- Encouraging academic members (research supervisors) to apply for research grant schemes through Research Council to support student research and potential inventions.
- Providing funds for publishing research findings in internationally recognized journals, and other publications.
- Encouraging and providing necessary monetary assistance to participate at exhibitions/ other forms of public forums to publicize their innovations.
- Holding annual student research day at individual faculties and rewarding the best innovators.
- Staging Annual Student Inventors Exhibition and rewarding the best innovators.

Scope –

This policy will be applicable to every student of the USJP who will undertake research studies or project work or independent studies as part of the study programme.

Definition -

Innovation is defined as looking for opportunities beyond tradition or identifying a new or untested approach. It often refers to a new method, idea or product or to a change/improvement made to an existing product, idea, or field. Innovation (Product/Process/Marketing) involves questioning rules, routines and assumptions. Innovation depends on both individual creativity and organizational culture.

There are three key types of innovation:

- Product innovation – the development of new products and services, or the enhancement of existing products
- Process innovation – improving processes within a focus area on continuous improvement to facilitate organizational/product efficiency and effectiveness
- Marketing innovation – service or product related; creating new markets; finding new or different ways to advertise, promote and/or package services and products

Titles of related Policies, Procedures, Forms, Guidelines – Student Policy, Student Handbook, Prospectus.