



John Coleridge Patteson University (JCPU))

Anglican Church of Melanesia

Policy Title

JCPU Research Policy Framework

Effective Date

June 2026

Review Cycle

Every five years, or earlier if required

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for research at JCPU that promotes academic excellence, supports national development, and reflects Christian values of truth, integrity, stewardship, and service.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all colleges, schools, institutions, departments, staff, students, and external collaborators engaged in research activities under the auspices of JCPU.

3. Definitions

3.1 Research: Systematic investigation aimed at generating new knowledge or applying existing knowledge to solve problems.

3.2 Ethics Review Board (ERB): A body established to review and approve research proposals for compliance with ethical standards.

3.3 Research Committee: A governance body under the Vice Chancellor responsible for oversight of research policy implementation.

3.4 Postgraduate coordinator: An academic staff member (or office) responsible for overseeing and coordinating postgraduate research programs and activities within the university.

3.5 External collaborator: any individual, institution, or organization **outside of JCPU** that formally engages in research activities with the university.

4. Policy Statements

4.1 Vision and Purpose

4.1.1 Establish JCPU as a center of excellence in research that advances knowledge, supports national development, and strengthens community well-being.

4.1.2 Promote values of integrity, stewardship, compassion, and service.

4.2 Governance and Oversight

4.2.1 A Research Committee shall be established under the Pro Vice Chancellor Academic.

4.2.2 Membership shall include academic leadership, faculty representatives, postgraduate coordinators, and church representatives.

4.2.3 The Committee shall submit annual reports to the University Council.

4.3 Ethics and Integrity

4.3.1 All research must uphold honesty, respect for human dignity, and care for creation.

4.3.2 An Ethics Review Board shall review all research proposals.

4.3.3 Research must comply with national legislation, international standards, and Christian principles.

4.4 Capacity Building

4.4.1 JCPU shall provide training in research methods, ethics, and faith-informed scholarship.

4.4.2 Mentorship programs shall be established for staff and students.

4.4.3 A research culture shall be promoted through seminars, workshops, and collaborative projects.

4.5 Funding and Resource Allocation

4.5.1 Transparent mechanisms shall be developed for internal research grants.

4.5.2 External funding shall be sought from government, regional partners, and international agencies.

4.5.3 Priority shall be given to projects that serve community needs and align with values of justice and compassion.

4.6 Partnerships and Collaboration

4.6.1 JCPU shall build partnerships with universities, industries, NGOs, and government agencies that respect academic freedom and Christian values.

4.6.2 Regional and international collaborations shall be pursued, including with Pacific and Asian institutions.

4.6.3 All partnerships shall be formalized through Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs).

4.6.4

4.7 Research Dissemination and Impact

4.7.1 Research findings shall be disseminated through peer-reviewed journals, open-access platforms, and conferences.

4.7.2 Community engagement shall be encouraged through policy briefs, workshops, and public lectures.

4.7.3 Research impact shall be measured by contributions to national development priorities and human flourishing.

4.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

4.8.1 Performance indicators shall include publications, grants secured, postgraduate completions, and community impact including metrics such as workshops delivered, policy briefs adopted, local impact reports.

4.8.2 Annual reviews shall be conducted by the Research Committee.

4.8.3 Five-year strategic evaluations shall be undertaken to assess long-term impact.

4.8.4 Church representatives shall be included in evaluations to ensure alignment with Christian mission.

5. Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Foundation (Years 1–3)

1. Establish Research Committee and Ethics Review Board.
2. Develop policies and procedures for governance.
3. Conduct training workshops for staff and students.

4. Initiate small-scale community-oriented research projects.

Phase 2: Growth (Years 4–7)

- Launch internal grant schemes.
- Formalize partnerships with regional universities and agencies.
- Begin postgraduate programs in priority areas.
- Increase publications and conference participation.

Phase 3: Consolidation (Years 8–10)

- Expand postgraduate offerings to include PhD programs.
- Strengthen industry partnerships and applied research initiatives.
- Develop commercialization pathways for sustainable innovations.
- Establish JCPU as a recognized research hub in the Pacific.

Phase 4: Maturity (Years 11–15)

- Position JCPU as a leader in Christian-informed research in the Pacific.
- Achieve international recognition through collaborative projects and publications.
- Integrate research outcomes into national policy and community development.
- Sustain research culture through continuous training, evaluation, and innovation.

6. Responsibilities

- **Pro Vice Chancellor Academic:** Overall accountability for research policy implementation.
- **Research Committee:** Oversight of governance, ethics, and reporting.
- **Ethics Review Board:** Approval of research proposals and monitoring compliance.
- **Colleges, Schools and Departments:** Implementation of research priorities and capacity building.
- **Researchers:** Compliance with ethical standards and contribution to dissemination.

7. Review and Amendment

This policy shall be initially reviewed after three years, then every five years thereafter, to allow early adjustments in legislation, institutional priorities, or national development needs. Amendments must be approved by the University Council.

