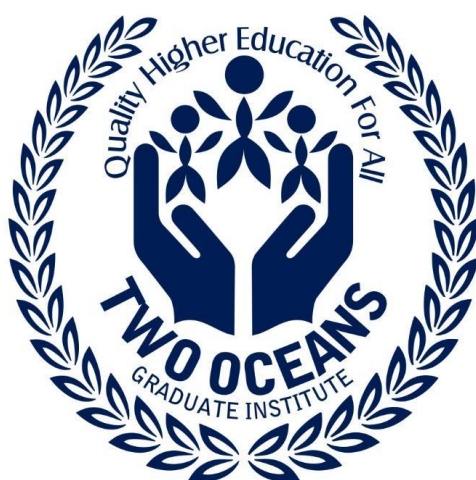


TWO OCEANS GRADUATE INSTITUTE

QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL



RESEARCH POLICY

Date of Approval	September 2019
Date of Revision	September 2020
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Purpose	3
2. Scope.....	3
3. Legislative Alignment	3
3.1. National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	3
3.2. Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC)	3
3.3. White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation	3
3.4. Ethical Research Practices	4
4. Policy Statement	4
5. Research Priorities	4
5.1 Institutional Research Culture Development	4
5.2 Research Capacity Building	4
5.3 Collaboration and Dissemination	4
6. Ethical Considerations.....	4
7. Associated Documents.....	5
8. Review	5
9. References	6

1. Purpose

Two Oceans Graduate Institute (TOGI) is committed to becoming a research-intensive teacher-training institution recognised for its excellence, integrity, and impact. This policy aligns TOGI's research activities with national and international priorities, such as the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **African Union's Agenda 2063**, while ensuring compliance with key legislative frameworks, including the:

- **National Qualifications Framework Amendment Act (2019)**, which promotes transparency and consistency in qualifications and research outputs.
- **CHE Quality Assurance Framework (2021)**, guiding the accreditation and governance of research within higher education institutions.
- **White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation (2019)**, supporting innovation and collaboration in research practices.

This policy seeks to:

- Embed a research culture in teacher education that addresses national and international challenges.
- Align research activities with TOGI's Strategic Plan (2024–2028) and associated documents.
- Support the ethical, innovative, and impactful production of knowledge.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all research activities involving:

- TOGI staff, students, and affiliates.
- Institutional resources or infrastructure.
- Full or partial TOGI funding.

Research at TOGI encompasses knowledge generation, scholarly communication, and applied research focusing on educational and societal challenges.

3. Legislative Alignment

3.1. National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

TOGI aligns its research with the NQF Amendment Act (2019) to ensure that qualifications and research outputs meet national standards and promote equitable recognition of competencies as required by SAQA.

3.2. Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC)

The CHE Quality Assurance Framework (2021) mandates that research outputs reflect institutional objectives, align with accreditation standards, and maintain a high level of quality.

3.3. White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation

Guided by the White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation (2019), TOGI prioritises innovative methodologies and collaborations that align with national development goals and global research standards.

3.4. Ethical Research Practices

While TOGI is a private institution, it ensures research aligns with principles outlined in the Ethics in Research Policy (2014), guaranteeing voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, and harm minimisation.

4. Policy Statement

TOGI's research policy is designed to:

- Foster a research culture that enhances knowledge production in teacher education.
- Promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- Develop capacity for high-quality, innovative, and ethical research.
- Ensure alignment with institutional and national strategic objectives.
- Protect and manage intellectual property from research outputs.

5. Research Priorities

5.1 Institutional Research Culture Development

TOGI aims to develop a research culture through:

- Building capacity for research among staff and students.
- Establishing partnerships with community stakeholders.
- Providing infrastructure and funding for research activities.

5.2 Research Capacity Building

Key initiatives include:

- Training in proposal writing, manuscript development, and grant applications.
- Data management and the use of advanced research tools.
- Postgraduate research training and mentorship.

5.3 Collaboration and Dissemination

To enhance visibility and impact, TOGI promotes:

- Open-access publishing and dissemination of findings.
- Participation in national and international conferences.
- Intellectual property management for collaborative works.

6. Ethical Considerations

TOGI adheres to the highest standards of ethical research, guided by the:

- **CHE Guidelines for Good Practice in Research (2015).**
- **Ethics in Research Policy (2014).**

Key principles include:

- **Voluntary Participation:** Participants engage willingly and without coercion.
- **Informed Consent:** Clear communication about study objectives and processes.
- **Confidentiality:** Robust systems to safeguard personal data.
- **Minimisation of Harm:** Proactive measures to mitigate risks.

Ethical standards are reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with national legislation and global best practices.

7. Associated Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

1. TOGI Strategic Plan (2024–2028).
2. TOGI Research Plan.
3. Research Conceptual Framework.
4. TOGI Open Access Policy.

8. Review

The Research Policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier if changes in legislative or institutional priorities necessitate it. Revisions will include stakeholder consultations to maintain relevance and effectiveness.

Date of Current Review: November 2024

This consolidated policy integrates all legislative and institutional updates, ensuring TOGI complies with South African Higher Education standards and global research best practices.

9. References

Council on Higher Education, 2021. A Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) For Higher Education in South Africa. Available at: <https://www.che.ac.za/publications/frameworks/quality-assurance-framework-qaf-higher-education-south-africa> {Accessed 4/05/2023}

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The National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030, 2012. Available at: <http://www.nstf.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/All-The-NDP.pdf>

Approval and implementation of the outlined policy is endorsed by



Dr. LM Erasmus

CEO, Two Oceans Graduate Institute

Date: November 2024