



Interdisciplinary Research Committee (IRC)

1. Purpose and Mandate

The Interdisciplinary Research Committee (IRC) is established to provide strategic leadership, governance oversight, and quality assurance for interdisciplinary research across the University. The Committee ensures alignment with the University's research strategy, accreditation standards, and international benchmarking frameworks.

The IRC promotes collaboration across faculties, enhances research impact, and supports the development of innovative solutions to complex societal and global challenges.

2. Composition

The IRC shall ensure balanced institutional and disciplinary representation.

Membership includes:

- Chair: Vice President for Research.
- Faculty Representatives (Associate Deans for Research or equivalent).
- Representative from Quality Assurance and Accreditation Unit.
- External/Industry Advisor.
- Secretary (non-voting).

Term of Membership: Three years, renewable once.

Members are appointed based on research excellence, interdisciplinary experience, leadership capacity, and representation across major disciplinary clusters.

3. Governance and Reporting

- The IRC reports to the University Research Council.
- Annual performance reports are submitted to the University Council.
- Faculty-level Interdisciplinary Coordinators report operational updates to the IRC.
- Decisions are made by majority vote with a quorum of 50% + 1 of voting members.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Strategic Functions

- Develop and periodically review the University's interdisciplinary research strategy.



- Identify priority thematic areas aligned with national priorities and global challenges.
- Recommend policy enhancements to strengthen interdisciplinary research performance.

B. Operational Functions

- Review and approve interdisciplinary research proposals (in case of internal funding).
- Facilitate cross-faculty research clusters and collaborative networks.
- Endorse the establishment of interdisciplinary research centers or thematic platforms.

C. Quality Assurance Functions

- Define and monitor Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including:
 - Number and percentage of cross-faculty publications.
 - Interdisciplinary research income.
 - Citation impact and research influence.
 - Number of externally funded interdisciplinary grants.
- Ensure compliance with research governance, ethics, and institutional policies.
- Maintain transparent and auditable evaluation procedures.

D. Capacity-Building Functions

- Promote training programs on interdisciplinary methodologies and collaborative grant writing.
- Support joint supervision of postgraduate students.
- Encourage international and industry-linked interdisciplinary initiatives.

5. Operational Procedures

- The IRC meets at least quarterly.
- Agendas are circulated in advance; minutes are formally recorded and archived.
- Annual interdisciplinary funding calls are issued with transparent eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Clear criteria define what qualifies as “interdisciplinary research” (e.g., cross-faculty collaboration, multi-disciplinary subject classification, or joint funding structures).

6. Performance Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

The effectiveness of the IRC shall be assessed annually through measurable outcomes, including:

- Growth rate in interdisciplinary publication volume.

- Increase in externally funded collaborative research projects.



- Improvement in citation impact indicators.
- Expansion of interdisciplinary partnerships with industry and community stakeholders.
- Faculty engagement and satisfaction with interdisciplinary initiatives.

University President

Prof. Mamdouh Ghorab

