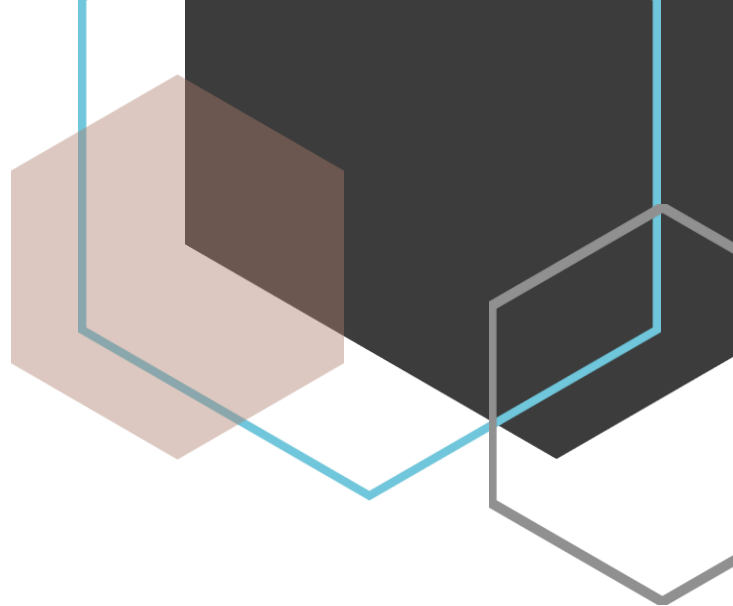




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UNIVERSITY PRIORITY SETTING REPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

POKHARA UNIVERSITY, NEPAL



Integrating Talent Development into Innovation Ecosystems in Higher Education

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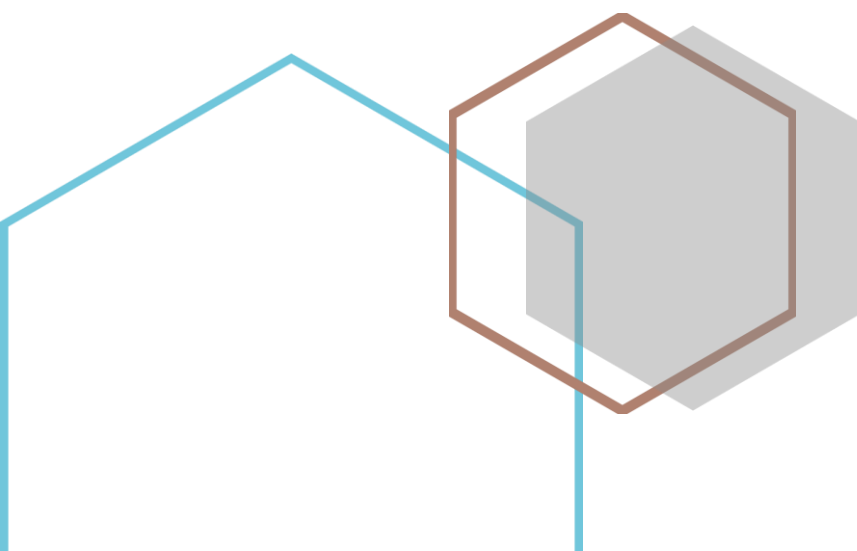




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This report seeks to map priority areas for research and education provision at the University. It aims to provide a vision on how the institution can develop further to become innovation and skills provider for its region and locality, and how students and graduates should be involved in this process.

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Pokhara University



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Review of national priorities for research, innovation and education

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

Higher Education Policy (HEP) in Nepal is developed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) consulting with the University Grants Commission (UGC) – the apex body of higher education. HEP, together with the National Program for Higher Education Reform and Development (NPHERD), have emphasized the need for aligning Higher Education with the country's development goals and priorities. Accordingly, they define priority areas (UGC, 2015). The priority areas follow the goals articulated in the Approach Paper to the Thirteenth Plan (2013-2016). The following faculties are fundamental for building foundational capacity for helping attain the policy and economic goals prioritized in the Approach Paper for the Thirteenth Plan and Higher Education Plan:

- Science and Technology
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Agriculture and Forestry.

The above are defined as technical faculties. Academic programs belonging to these faculties have been defined as priority areas. Also prioritized are academic programs, associated with the following national policy goals and priorities (as defined in the Approach Paper for the Thirteenth Plan and HEP):

- Reduction of economic and human development poverty
- Employment generation
- Holistic development of the national economy
- Economic, social and political transformation to develop a culture of inclusive democracy
- Conservation and development of national heritage
- Promotion of indigenous knowledge, vocation, and technology
- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the environment, including biodiversity
- Productivity enhancement in and diversification and commercialization of agriculture
- Development of basic education and health; provision of drinking water and sanitation
- Promotion of good governance;
- Roads and other infrastructure;
- Water resources;
- Renewable energy;
- Small industries and business;
- Natural disaster and hazard management;

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Global warming and climate change

The government's research priorities are aligned with the priorities for education viz. Science and Technology; Engineering; Medicine; and Agriculture and forestry. Government has emphasized the innovation of low-cost technology that would be appropriate to local people. National priority areas of research, innovation and education have been determined by the Government of Nepal. Pokhara University is responsible to carry out research, provide education and innovate new ideas, especially in the following four areas:

- Management
- Engineering
- Health and allied science
- Humanities and social science



**University priorities for research and innovation targeted at
the economy and business enterprises**

**CURRENT AREAS FOR
RESEARCH,
EDUCATION AND
INNOVATION IN
AREAS RELATED TO
ECONOMY AND
BUSINESS**

Pokhara University was established in 1997 with the aim to mobilize private sector resources and provide technical as well as management education. The University is called upon to provide quality higher education through practical and research-based education in the area of Management, Engineering, and Health Sciences.

With regard to education, the University currently excels in the following areas targeted at the economy and business enterprises:

Management Education

Compared to other South Asian countries, Nepal's management education is relatively new. It started in the mid-1950s and has particularly gained momentum after 1990s. In a country with 26.4 million population, crippled economy and gloomy business prospects, high quality management graduates are particularly important. Bachelor and master-level studies in this area are thus an important priority. The objective of PhD studies in the field of management is to develop experts in management education, to enrich research capability in management disciplines for advancing management knowledge, practice and profession. PhD graduates in management are expected to possess a competitive edge in conceptual and analytical skills in management disciplines for an advanced career in academic or analytical professions in management and policy making. Pokhara University started its PhD program in management in 2014.

Engineering Education

In Nepal, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu University, Purbanchal University and Pokhara University offer Engineering Programs at Bachelors level and above. The Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) provides Diploma level course in engineering, medicine and agriculture. These Universities, including Pokhara University, offer various programs in engineering viz. Civil engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture and Computer Engineering. Such courses are the preferred choices for a large number of students. Industrial Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Computer Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Hydro Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Geomatics Engineering and Biomedical Engineering are also taught.

At Master-level, courses are currently offered only by Tribhuvan University. The possibility to introduce such courses at Pokhara University needs to be considered. Potential areas of study at Master-level include: Urban Planning, Information & Communication Engineering, Structural Engineering Power System Engineering, Renewable Energy Engineering, Water Resources Engineering Geo-Technical Engineering, Transportation Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management, Disaster Risk Management, Energy Systems Planning and Management Computer Systems and Knowledge Engineering, Environmental Engineering Construction Management, Climate Change and Development, Material Science Energy for Sustainable Social Development, Earthquake Engineering Infrastructure



Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering in Distributed Generations.

Health Education

Medical education in Nepal is regulated by various organisations. At national level, it is guided by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Nepal Medical Council (NMC). The objectives and functions of NMC are to monitor the qualification of doctors and to provide registration certificates by organizing licensing examinations. NMC also provides recognition to medical institutions for providing formal studies in medical science and training; formulates policies related to curriculum, admission, term and examination systems of teaching institutes of medical education; makes recommendations for cancellation of registrations; formulates necessary policies; pursues a Code of Conduct for the medical profession; actively participates in formulating the National Health Policy (<https://www.nmc.org.np>)¹.

Tribhuvan University, Purbanchal University and Pokhara University are the higher education institutions that offer programs in medical health education. Besides, there are four deemed universities viz. B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Patan Academy of Medical Sciences and National Academy of Medical Sciences, Pokhara Academy of Medical Sciences that also offer programs in health and medical education. In any case, the role of Pokhara University as a major provider of medical science graduates not only for the region, but also for the country as a whole, cannot be overestimated.

In particular, Pokhara University has set the priority areas of teaching in the following Health Education areas relevant to the economy and business enterprises:

1. Lab technology
2. Natural Chemistry
3. Clinical Pharmacy
4. Ophthalmology
5. Physiotherapy
6. Oncology

At Pokhara University, the priority areas for research are being set by the Senate (the apex body of the university), the Academic Council (the apex body for academic affairs), the Executive Council (the apex body for administrative affairs), the offices of the Dean, and the Schools (Colleges). The University has four faculties viz. Management (covering areas of general management, hospitality, health care and information systems), Engineering (covering areas of civil engineering, electrical engineering and electronics, computer science, natural resources, hydropower), Health Sciences (covering areas of medical laboratory operations, pharmacy, nursing, public health), social science (covering

¹ <https://www.nmc.org.np/contents/function-objective.html>

areas of gender, population, development, geography, communications, English).

Research activities at Pokhara University have three tiers:

- **Central level:** Pokhara University Research Centre (PURC) was established in 2012 and is the central research centre of university. It provides funds for research to faculty members and manages all research-related activities at central level. The objective of the centre is to provide financial support to faculty members in order to carry out research projects. It provides funds for individual researchers and teams of researchers, at the University and at both constituent and affiliated colleges. The Executive Director is a full-time administrator who is guided by the Research Management Committee (RMC) and is supported by two different committees - Research Evaluation Committee and Institutional Ethical Review Committee.
- **Faculty level:** The Office of the Dean at each Faculty has rights to form a Research Committee to provide funds to the faculty members.
- **College Level:** Each college is required to carry out research through their faculty members. It is compulsory that research is administered by the college-level research committee in both types of colleges - constituent and private.

Current achievements in research at Pokhara University

During a five-year period, more than 44 projects have been funded by PURC, using internal sources. Attempts have been made to obtain funds also from national and international donors.

As per the guidelines of PURC, Pokhara University allocates funds for individual faculty research to the amount of almost USD \$900 per project and for collaborative research to the amount of USD \$ 2,700 per project. The Research Evaluation Committee (REC) issues calls for proposals, evaluates proposals and recommends to the Research Management Committee (RMC) the list of projects that should be approved. The following research projects targeted at the economy and business enterprises have been carried out with the financial supports of PURC:

Engineering

- The performance bottleneck of Pokhara University ICT Networked system and services: A case based study.
- Assessment of properties of over burnt brick aggregate concrete.
- Determination of hydrogen sulphide in smoked cigarette by using ion selective electrode method.
- Complicated features and their solution in analysis of thin shell platel structure.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

- Study of open channel flow: A case study of Bijayapur irrigation project.
- Critical Review on Status of Implementation of Nepal Building Code After 2015 Gorkha Seismic Sequence in Pokhara-Lekhnath Metropolitan City
- Analysis of rotating shell tower structure
- IOT based smart farming
- Hydro-economic modelling of water flow allocation in sub-basin level of west rapti basin, Nepal
- Comparative Analysis Between Rat-trap Bond and Traditional English Bond Used in Masonry Structure in the context of Pokhara Valley.

Health Sciences / Life Sciences

- Phytochemical and biological activity assessment of Nepalese turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.)
- Study of Hypoglysemic activity and Phytochemical analysis on root bark of plant *Mussaenda macrophylla*
- Dispensing practice and controlling system of antibiotics among medicine retailer in Pokhara Valley- An interventional study
- Conversion of paper waste into bioplastics (Poly-lactic acid)
- Determination of curcumin content in *Curcuma longa*, *Curcuma zedoaria* and *Curcuma caesia* by HPLC method and evaluation of their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities
- Prevalence of dyslipidemia in young population of Lekhnath, Kaski.
- Practice of universal precautions by nursing students in Pokhara, Nepal.
- Assessment of medication adherence and drug utilization pattern among diabetic patients with hypertension as comorbid condition
- Correlation of the levels of serum CRP& HbA1C in diabetic patients & non diabetic individuals
- Economic Implications of Polypharmacy in elderly patients in Nepalese communities.
- Serum homocysteine and uric acid level as a predictive marker of pre-eclampsia.

Management and Business

- Business students' perceptions of their professional career: a case study of BBA & MBA students of School of business,

Pokhara University

- Effective performance measurement system using balance score card in business organizations of Pokhara
- Assessment of air travellers' willingness to pay to offset their CO2 emission in Pokhara
- The effect of financial liberalization on macroeconomic performance and financial sector stability: Empirical evidence from Nepal
- Willingness to pay for community health insurance by inhabitants of Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan City: A contingent valuation study
- Corporate governance, ownership structure and performance: evidence from Nepalese listed firms
- Behavioural factors influencing individual investor's decision making and performance: A survey at Nepal Stock Exchange.

In addition, the following Faculty Research Grants have been implemented:

- A content analysis of language and communication courses
- Awareness and usage of internet banking facilities
- The influence of behavioural factors on investment decision
- Factors affecting job satisfaction: A comparative study of university teachers
- Factors affecting investment decision of employees
- The demand for logistics and supply chain management jobs

Social Sciences and Humanities

- English Language Need of Engineering Students in Nepal: A Survey.
- Developing professional expertise in teaching personnel: A survey on expectation of teachers in training module/course at Pokhara University

FUTURE RESEARCH PRIORITIES RELEVANT TO THE ECONOMY AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The University has set the following future priorities for research in the field of Management:

- Financial Management, Accountancy, Taxation and Auditing
- General Management, Marketing, Value Chain Management
- Entrepreneurial Leadership, Innovation and Business Development Plan
- Risk Management and Insurance.



The faculty members of Pokhara University need to focus on publications in the available research-based publications (scientific journals) in the area of **Management**. Relevant journals are:

- Journal of Business and Management (published by Pokhara University itself)
- Journal of Management and Development Studies (Nepal Administrative Staffs College)
- Journal of Management and Development and Journal of Business and Management Research (Kathmandu University, School of Management)
- International Research Journal of Management Science (Nepal College of Management, KU)²
- PYC Nepal Journal of Management (Public Youth Campus, TU)
- Administrative and Management Review (NASC)
- Banking Journal (Nepal Bankers' Association)
- Janapriya Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, Journal of Business and Social Science Research (Ace Institute of Management)
- Journal of Development and Administrative Studies (CEDA)
- Journal of Nepalese Business Studies (Prithvi Narayan Campus, TU)
- NCC Journal (Nepal Commerce Campus, TU)
- The Journal of Business and Hospitality (NTHMC, PU).

The University has set the following priorities for research in the field of **Engineering**:

- Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics and Computer Engineering
- Structural Engineering and Natural Resources

Current research priorities in the field of Engineering are strongly influenced by the Centre for Applied Research and Development (CARD)³ - an autonomous research and development center within the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University. CARD was established on April 15, 1994 as part of the collaboration program between Tribhuvan University and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim) through funds made available by Norwegian Universities' Committee for Development Research and Education. CARD promotes all kinds of scholarly activities: fundamental research, applied research, contract research for government, non-governmental

² <https://ncm.edu.np/international-research-journal-of-management-science/>

³ <https://card.ioe.edu.np/>

and international agencies.

Pokhara University researchers need to focus on publishing their findings in research journals issued by different engineering colleges: *Journal of the Institute of Engineering, Hydro Nepal: Journal of Water, Energy and Environment International Journal of Engineering Research and General Science, Journal of Advanced College of Engineering and Management, Journal of Institute of Science and Technology.*

The University has set the following future priorities for research in the field of **Medical and Health Sciences**:

- Public Health Management
- Pharmacy
- Clinical Laboratory
- Nursing Science
- Lab technology
- Natural Chemistry
- Ophthalmology
- Physiotherapy
- Oncology

At national level, research-related activities in these fields are coordinated, organised, recorded and published by Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC). NHRC was established in 1991, with the aim of promoting quality and ethical standard of health research in the country. The Council conducts, promotes, approves and monitors health research and its use in Nepal. Its duties relate to the formulation of national health research policy and to the specification of the priority areas for health research. The priority areas in health sector research according to NHRC are:

- Health Care Delivery System
- Communicable Diseases
- Non Communicable Diseases
- Neonatal and Child Health
- Reproductive Health
- Nutrition and Food Safety
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Traditional Medicine
- Urban Health
- Geriatric Health

The priority areas for future medical research at Pokhara University are

POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF EXISTING RESEARCH CENTRES

in line with these priorities.

There are altogether 67 centres (1 at central level, 4 at faculty level, and 62 at College level). Recently, three new colleges (joint constituent) have been established. Additional three research centres are going to be established very soon. As the number of faculties and students is increasing, there is high potential to expand the existing capacity of research centres at all levels. The University plans to upgrade the capacity of the existing research centres by establishing a Research Management Cell (RMC) in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Research Center will seek to increase research funds, exploring external sources. The University is planning to expand the activities and scope of the Research Center in two ways: by increasing the budget for research and by increasing the number of research activities. The plan is to enable the Center to publish interdisciplinary research journals.

POTENTIAL OPENING OF NEW RESEARCH CENTRES

The four constituent colleges of Pokhara University have their own Research Cells. New research centres will be open if the number of constituent college increases.

POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF COLLABORATIONS WITH BUSINESS OR CREATION OF NEW COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations with industry and private sector are currently at nascent stage. Potential for enhancing this collaboration exists with the following stakeholders:

Management (under the Faculty of Management Studies):

- Banking industry
- Insurance industry
- Cooperative industry
- Tourism Industry
- Telecommunication industry
- Federation of Nepalese Chambers and Commerce and Industry
- Confederation of Nepalese Industry
- Department of Industry and Commerce
- Nepal Rastra Bank
- Securities Board of Nepal
- Deposit and Credit Guarantee Corporation
- Insurance Board of Nepal

- Departments of Cooperatives
- Tourism Board of Nepal

In the public and private sector, various organizations are offering training and education in the area of management. Pokhara University School of Business aims to establish a good relationship with these organizations so that joint programs can be organized on a regular basis to enhance the practical knowledge of teachers and students.

- **Nepal Administrative Staffs College (NASC):** It was set up in 1982 as a national level autonomous institution under the Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) Act, 1982. The aims of the college are to provide necessary training for the employees of the Government of Nepal and Public Enterprises, identify measures for enhancing the capability of the administration of the Nepal Government and the management of public enterprises, in order to contribute towards the country's development and to undertake problem-oriented research, consulting and information service programmes for preparing training materials and making training more useful
- **Management Association of Nepal (MAN):** This is a non-for-profit organization established in 1982 under the Social Service Act. It is a volunteer organization which provides higher education (executive MBA), training in different area of financial management, human resource management, procurement and logistics management
- **Nepalese Academy of Management:** The Nepalese Academy of Management (NAM) is a leading professional association for scholars and professionals dedicated to create and disseminate knowledge related to all disciplines required for managing organizations. Members of the academy are scholars at colleges, universities and research institutions, as well as practitioners in business, government, and not-for-profit organizations with relevant scholarly interests. The Academy of Management frequently organizes international conferences, workshops, doctoral consortiums, and faculty development programs for the benefit of its members and wider communities.
- **National Banking Institute:** National Banking Institute Limited (NBI) is a national-level apex banking and finance academy established under the aegis of Nepal Bankers' Association with support from the Asian Development Bank. Apart from Nepal Banker's Association member banks, its promoters include Nepal Rastra Bank and Rural Microfinance Development Center (RMDC). It carries out research in areas related to the financial sector and other sectors that support the financial industry, covering issues such as professional development, industry status/changes, financial and economic indicators, research on micro credit, new trends and

technologies, etc. It also provides innovative solutions that can be packaged in the form of knowledge. The Knowledge Consulting wing of NBI closely works with each and every stakeholder in the chain to assist them in solving complex industry issues.

- **Insurance Institute of Nepal:** The IIN was jointly established in 2018 by the Insurance Board of Nepal and all insurance companies in Nepal to provide trainings on contemporary issues for staff of the insurance companies and for agents in the insurance industry.

Science, Technology and Engineering Research (under the School of Engineering):

- Hydropower industry
- Infrastructure industry
- Mine and Metal Industry
- Communication and Information Technology Industry
- Urban Development organizations
- Biomedical engineering industry
- Health engineering industry
- Agriculture engineering industry
- Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
- Nepal Engineering Council
- Departments of Science and Technology
- Departments of Physical Infrastructure
- Departments of Transportation Management
- Departments of Water Resources
- Departments of Irrigation
- Departments of Environment
- Departments of Drinking Water

Health Research

- World Health Organization
- Department of Health Services
- Privately owned hospitals
- Nepal Health Research Council
- Teaching hospitals of different universities
- Nepal Public Health Association

POTENTIAL
EXPANSION OF
INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIONS OR
CREATION OF NEW
INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION

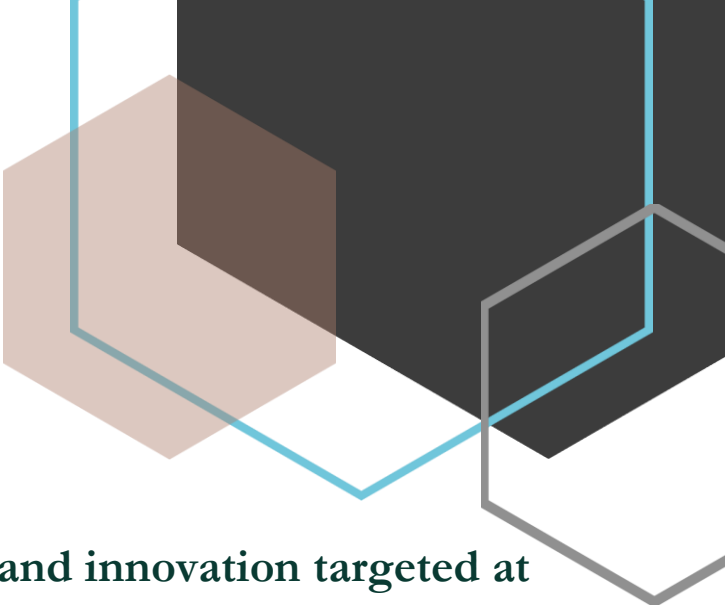
- Nepal Health Professionals Council

Pokhara University has established MoUs with various institutions across the globe. There is the possibility for collaborative research with these academic institutions:

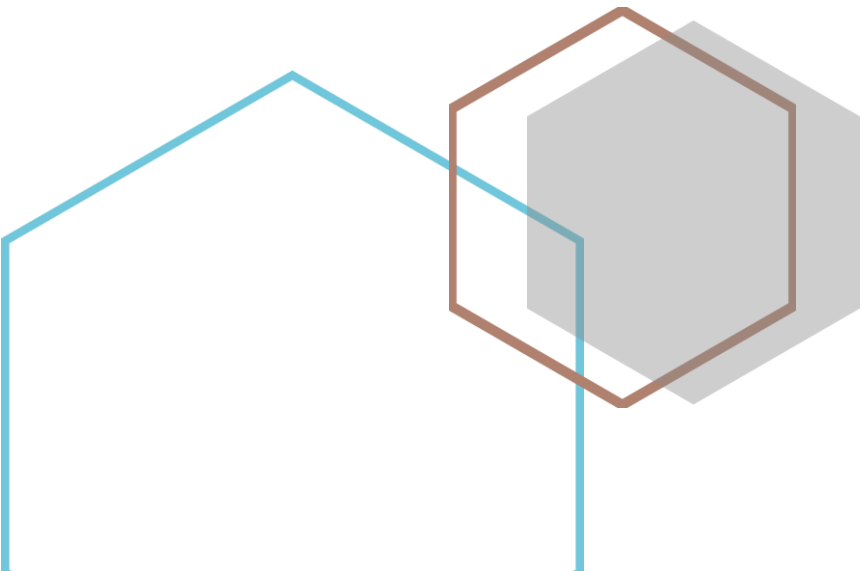
- Central Queensland University, Australia
- Independent University Bangladesh, Bangladesh
- International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Bangladesh
- Burgas Free University, Bulgaria
- Jilin University, China
- University of Science and Technology, China
- Qinghai Nationalities University, China
- Sichuan University of People's Republic of China, China
- University of South China, China
- Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague Czech Republic
- Panjab University, India
- University of Roorkee, India
- KIIT University, India
- India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), India
- Shree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, India
- Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, India
- Institute of Foreign Trade and Management, India
- The University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy
- University of Padua, Italy
- Institute of Technology Sepuluh, Indonesia
- University Under Forum for Integrated Development of Eleventh University (Find-11), Indonesia
- RK University, India
- Showa Pharmaceutical University, Japan
- Institute of Natural Medicine, Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Japan
- National University Corporation Ehime University, Japan
- Kumamoto University, Japan



- Yonsei University, South Korea
- Institute of Oriental Medicine, Dongguk University, South Korea
- Sun Moon University, South Korea
- Pusan National University, College of Engineering, South Korea
- The University of Nordland (Bodø University College), Norway
- University of Tromsø, Norway
- Institute of Business Management (IOBM), Pakistan
- University of Warsaw, Poland
- Bialystok University of Technology, Poland
- Emilio Aguinaldo College, Philippines
- Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- Shinawatra University, Thailand
- Kingston College of London, UK
- Incheon National University, South Korea
- Ball State University, USA
- Cloud State University, USA
- Claflin University, USA
- Georgia southwestern State University, USA
- Arizona State University, USA
- Bellevue University, USA
- Hanoi University of Science (Vietnam), Vietnam.



**University priorities for research and innovation targeted at
inclusive economic growth**



CURRENT AREAS OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND INNOVATION IN AREAS RELATED TO INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Pokhara University aims at providing quality education for youth in the Pokhara region. By improving the qualifications and skills of youth, the university makes its own contribution to promoting inclusive economic growth and preventing migration.

With regard to education, the University currently excels in the following areas targeted at inclusive growth:

1. Provision of high quality education for health professionals, thus improving citizens' access to health services. In particular, Pokhara University has set the priority areas of teaching in the following areas:
 - Public health
 - Nursing
2. The University has set the following priorities for education in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities with a view to contributing to inclusive growth:
 - Population
 - Gender
 - Development

Current achievements in research at Pokhara University contributing to inclusive growth and society

Engineering

- Computer literacy and its application among faculty members of Pokhara University: A comparative study among constituent and affiliated campuses.

Health Sciences / Life Sciences

- Educational satisfaction and career plan of public health undergraduates: A cross sectional study of three Universities of Nepal
- Menstrual problems and its relation to absenteeism amongst school girls in suburb areas of Kaski district
- Opinions of tobacco use environmental tobacco smoke control measures and its cessation, among undergraduate medical students in Nepal
- Outcomes and Factors Associated with Teenage Pregnancy: A Hospital Based Case-Control Study

Management and Business

- Impact of homestay tourism in livelihood status of home stay operators: Evidence from western part of Nepal

In addition, the following Faculty Research Grants have been implemented:

- Identification of bottleneck problem in hospitals
- Influence of parental socio-economic status on students' academic performance

Social Sciences and Humanities

- Social, Cultural and Economic profiling of Chepang Communities: A case study of Lothar VDC, Chitwan district Nepal.
- Situation of child labour working at hotels in Pokhara Valley.
- Gender dimension of senior citizens: their status, experiences and inclusion/exclusion
- Migrants' willingness to support to their place of origin: A Study on dwellers of Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan City Ward Number Thirteen
- The dynamics of informal microenterprises: Implications for inclusive growth sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction in Nepal.

**FUTURE PRIORITIES
FOR RESEARCH
TARGETED AT
INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

The University has set the following priorities for research in the field of **Medical and Health Sciences**:

- ✓ Public Health Management
- ✓ Nursing Science

These priorities are in line with the current priorities set by NHR, namely:

1. Health Care Delivery System
2. Communicable Diseases
3. Non Communicable Diseases
4. Neonatal and Child Health
5. Reproductive Health
6. Mental Health and Substance Abuse

POTENTIAL
EXPANSION OF
COLLABORATIONS OR
CREATION OF NEW
COLLABORATIONS

7. Injuries, Accidents and Violence
8. Nutrition and Food Safety
9. Environmental and Occupational Health
11. Urban Health
12. Geriatric Health

The University has set the following future priorities for research in the field of **Social Sciences and Humanities**:

- ✓ Population
- ✓ Gender
- ✓ Development

Collaborations with the external environment focused on issues of inclusive social development and growth are currently at a nascent stage. Potential for enhancing this collaboration exists with the following stakeholders:

Social Science (under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):

- Social Securities sector
- Labour relations sector
- Human Rights sector
- Women, Children, and Disabled sector
- Senior Citizens and minorities sector
- Developmental Organizations
- United Nation Development Program
- Arts, Culture and History
- Land Management and Poverty Alleviation

Health Research

- World Health Organization
- Department of Health Services
- UNICEF
- Family Planning Association of Nepal
- Government owned specialized hospitals
- Privately owned hospitals
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Health Services
- Nepal Health Research Council

- Teaching hospitals of different universities
- Nepal Public Health Association
- Public Health and Sanitation
- Nepal Health Professionals Council



University priorities for research and innovation targeted at pressing challenges facing societies in Southern and Southeast Asia

CURRENT AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH RELEVANT TO THE COMMON CHALLENGES IN SOUTHERN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Pokhara University has overall limited capacity to contribute to research targeted at pressing challenges facing societies in Southern and Southeast Asia. We expect this capacity to grow together with the growth of the capacity of the faculty and the administration.

Currently, the University is engaged in research in the following areas that are relevant to the challenges facing societies in Southern and Southeast Asia:

Health Sciences / Life Sciences

Health problems of Nepalese migrant workers and their access to healthcare services in Middle East countries: A cross-sectional study

Social Sciences and Humanities

Situation of Nepalese labor migrants in Gulf countries and Malaysia: Content analysis of daily newspaper.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

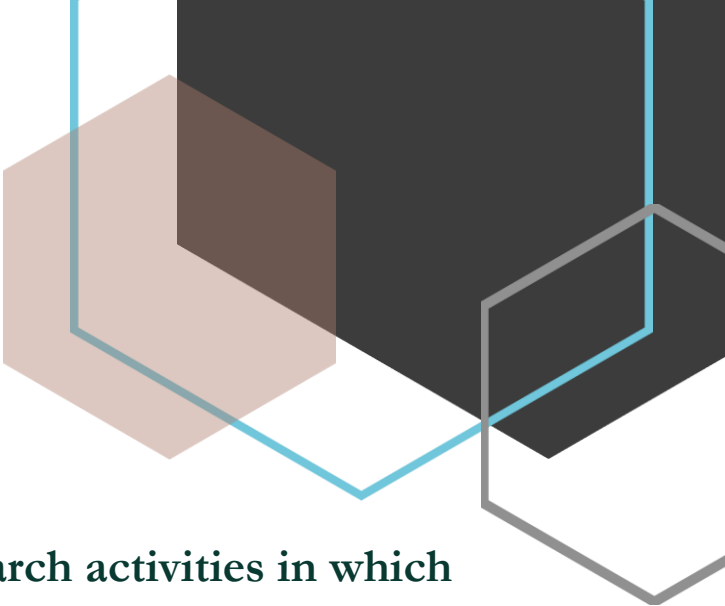
Considering the educational and research orientation of the University, the greatest potential of Pokhara University to contribute to the body of research addressing the emerging and pressing challenges of Southern and South-east Asian societies is in the areas of Medicine and Health Sciences - primarily public health and disease control, and the Social Sciences – primarily issues related to migration and the social status of migrants.

Engagement with such areas of research should necessary happen through international collaborative research activities. Among the potential research partners from the region of South-East Asia are:

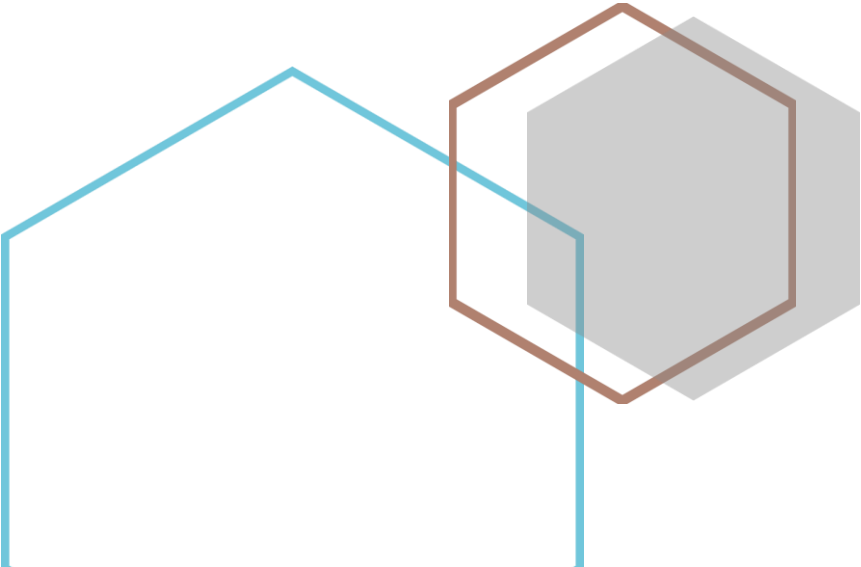
- Independent University Bangladesh, Bangladesh
- International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Bangladesh
- Jilin University, China
- University of Science and Technology, China
- Qinghai Nationalities University, China
- Sichuan University of People's Republic of China, China
- University of South China, China
- Panjab University, India
- University of Roorkee, India
- KIIT University, India
- RK University, India
- India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), India
- Shree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, India

- Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, India
- Institute of Foreign Trade and Management, India
- Institute of Technology Sepuluh, Indonesia
- University Under Forum for Integrated Development of Eleventh University (Find-11), Indonesia
- Institute of Business Management (IOBM), Pakistan
- Emilio Aguinaldo College, Philippines
- Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- Shinawatra University, Thailand
- Hanoi University of Science (Vietnam), Vietnam.





Areas of innovation and research activities in which students should be involved



The University should try to involve students in research in all currently prioritized research fields. Ideally, each student should engage in a research project before the completion of their studies. Research projects can be integrated into the study programs but they can also be organized as a co-curricular activity, as currently planned in the INNOTAL project. Specifically, live innovation projects will represent a great innovation for the Nepalese system of higher education.

There are some challenges to research in Pokhara University and these challenges are equally, if not more, relevant to the involvement of students in research. There is a general lack of human resources and infrastructure for research at the University. Financial resources are equally scarce. There is moderate – but not high – motivation of faculty members to apply for research grants or to engage in other research projects since they are quite busy fulfilling their teaching, evaluation and administrative duties. Faculty members' teaching workload is excessive as the teacher to student ratio is 1:20.

Despite the general lack of resources, the University already has some resources on which future initiatives should build. There are four research management cells (RMC) and four Faculty Grants Committees at each constituent school at the University. At the School of Health and Allied Science, there is a separate wet laboratory for research. The laboratory is well equipped to facilitate research by students and faculty of lab technology, pharmacy, nursing and public health. Similarly, there is another laboratory for the civil engineering program and the electrical and electronics program. In the frame of the INNOTAL project, a new lab will be specifically set to focus on the involvement of students in research and innovation projects. The greatest challenge in this respect will likely not be the motivation of students, but the availability of faculty members to lead the projects, as well as the interest of external stakeholders to contribute to the projects and to provide real-world cases studies on which to work. In this respect, the University needs to primarily work on developing its currently nascent relations with external stakeholders and to providing adequate incentives for faculty members who get engaged in this process.

