

Research policy Hólar University

Scope and Purpose

The Research Policy of Hólar University articulates the University's fundamental values and principles for research. It is based on the understanding that academic work consists of seeking truth through critical thinking and scholarly working methods, with full respect for academic freedom and academic responsibility.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a common framework for research activities at the University and to affirm the close interconnection between research and teaching. The policy emphasizes the role of research in contributing to the advancement of knowledge and to the well-being and development of Icelandic society. The Research Policy is formulated as a general policy statement. It does not define specific research topics or priorities, as these are determined by the academic staff within each department in accordance with their respective research policies and academic fields. Operational matters, detailed procedures, and regulations related to research implementation are addressed in the quality handbook of Hólar University.

Responsibility

Hólar University bears overall responsibility for creating an academic environment that supports high-quality research, safeguards academic freedom, and promotes scholarly integrity in accordance with applicable laws, ethical standards, and recognized academic principles. Academic staff are responsible for conducting research with integrity, adhering to scholarly standards, and contributing to the development of academic knowledge within their respective fields. Academic freedom is exercised together with academic responsibility and does not diminish the obligation to comply with general institutional rules and codes of ethics. Academic freedom includes the right and obligation to make the scientific results public, if the research meets the requirements of a professional peer review.

Departments are responsible for shaping their research activities within the University's academic fields, including the development of departmental research priorities and practices, in accordance with this research policy. The organization and governance of research at the University are based on collegial decision-making and peer governance within the academic community.

Values

Research at Hólar University is guided by:

Academic freedom

Research should be allowed to be conducted in full respect of academic freedom, exercised together with scholarly integrity, ethical responsibility, and adherence to recognized international academic standards.

Quality and scholarly rigor

The University values high-quality research based on critical thinking, sound methodologies, and professional peer review as the primary measure of research quality.

Open Science

The University values the public dissemination of research and the use of repositories for open data.

Responsible research practices

Research is conducted with respect for responsible research conduct, including ethical considerations, sound data practices, and respect for societal and environmental responsibilities.

Policy

Based on its core values, Hólar University pursues the following strategic objectives in research:

- **Safeguard and promote academic freedom and research integrity** across all research activities.
- **Strengthen high-quality research** in the University's academic fields in accordance with recognized international standards.
- **Integrate research and teaching as inseparable elements of academic activity**, ensuring that students at all levels engage with current research and scholarly practices as part of the research community.
- **Strengthen international collaboration and participation** in the academic community.
- **To promote collaboration with local communities, industry, public institutions, and partners outside academia**, supporting societal relevance and impact in accordance with the University's role and expertise

Actions

Hólar University seeks to advance its research objectives through appropriate academic, organizational, and support structures, in line with this Research Policy and applicable regulations.

- Maintaining academic structures that support independent research, scholarly exchange, and collegial governance.
- Providing an institutional framework with documented procedures that enables responsible research practices and ethical reflection.
- Supporting the dissemination of research through scholarly publication, data repositories, academic dialogue, and engagement with society and industry.

The Research Committee annually evaluates progress toward the objectives of the policy

Review

The research policy will be reviewed in connection with revisions to the University's overall policy framework that affect research policy.