



## **Minimum Requirements for The Establishment of New Research Cluster in Covenant University**

This policy is a requirement for all research clusters / centers and for the establishment of new clusters in Covenant University.

### **Policy statement**

Research clusters in Covenant University provide a special and crucial mechanism to facilitate the maximum quality of inter and multi-disciplinary research based on the institutional themes that will encompass researchers from different units across disciplines, departments, schools and colleges. Characteristically, they are based on a group of faculty's research interest in addressing specific issues or problems of current interests not covered within the researchers' discipline.

Research cluster shall be approved by the Vice-chancellor following the recommendation of the Dean of the college and the Director CUCRID.

As an official unit of Covenant University, all research clusters must utilize transparent processes of governance and review. The criteria for the governing, establishment and review of research cluster should reflect high standard of academic excellence and ethics and business practices that regulates all Covenant University academic activities.

### **All research clusters must include:**

- A plan for research or creativity activity and a mission statement that is in consonance with the University's central research vision
- A financial plan, which states clearly the immediate and long-term sustainability

- An organizational structure that may include advisory members who will facilitate generation of funds as the case may be for the sustainability of the research cluster
- Some criteria (key performance indicators) for and plans for periodic review and evaluation of the contributions of the cluster to the University central research theme.

To drive the overall efficiency, all research clusters will be evaluated and held accountable using the benchmarks specified in the key performance indicators: This may include:

- Disciplines and financial sustainability plans.
- Productivity - outstanding scholarly and creative work, and as such the University has the responsibility to help the members of the research cluster determine how it can best obtain the resources necessary to sustain its operation (acquisition of external funding).

### **Establishment of research cluster**

All application for the creation of research cluster should exhibit the benefits and necessity of forming such a cluster. It must prove that no college within Covenant University has parallel research cluster in existence at the college and university levels. All applications shall be reviewed to ensure that the academic, financial, organizational and periodic review plans are in place. Overall, each college under which the research cluster exists must provide an annual report of the activities and achievements of the research cluster. This report will be subjected to review by the Director, Centre for research, innovation and discovery.

#### **a. Name of a research cluster**

Ideally, the name of cluster must reflect its basic function and affiliations. A research cluster from a college should include the name of that college for instance – CST-Biotechnology research cluster, COE –Information technology research cluster.

#### **b. Guideline for establishment of a research cluster**

Each research cluster must include a significant involvement of faculty from various disciplines/colleges as the case may be. The cluster will be established following the approval of application by the Vice-chancellor of Covenant University. However, such application will be reviewed by the Director of Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery with advice from an adhoc-CUCRID proposal evaluating committee. They may recommend the proposal for approval without amendment, recommend changes in the name, scope or other aspects of the proposed research cluster or reject or redirect the applications.

The application for the establishment of research cluster shall include:

- ✓ Summary of the scope and purpose of the proposed research cluster
- ✓ Detailed mission statement
- ✓ Strategic plan/project timelines
- ✓ Goals/benchmark to track progress
- ✓ Budget/ resource justification for 1-2 years.
- ✓ Statement of support from relevant department head/ deans
- ✓ Background; including existing efforts and faculty involvement (status) in Covenant University
- ✓ Record of previous achievements of the lead researcher within Covenant University or previous institutions
- ✓ Detailed description of proposed research including brief CV's( 2pg.Max) for the lead researchers or principal investigators (PI)
- ✓ Proposed organizational structure including leadership and possible nominees for advisory non members of the research cluster
- ✓ Potential for revenue generation (sourcing of external funding/grants, service income, private/corporate donations)
- ✓ Resources available/ required (space, equipment, administrative, support).
- ✓ Requested Covenant University grants if any

#### **Criteria for review of research cluster applications**

- Each proposed research cluster should have at least four faculty from the cognate disciplines or colleges

- Proposed research cluster should be organized round a research or scholarly theme of high intellectual need or Nigerian National development plan or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with great potential benefit for research, creative work and education in Covenant University.
- Have a clear mission based on scholarly research or University research theme
- Should have a lead researcher, principal investigator, managers, or senior faculty member with academic standing who has proven administrative skills and ability to raise external funding where necessary.