

AzTU Research Awarding Policy

This policy outlines the criteria, processes, and guidelines for awarding research-related achievements at Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU). The goal of this policy is to foster a culture of excellence in research, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and recognize outstanding contributions to academic knowledge and societal development.

Objectives

- To recognize and reward research excellence among faculty, staff, and students.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and innovation.
- To encourage participation in high-impact academic and industry-based projects.
- To align research activities with AzTU's strategic goals, including technological advancement and societal contributions.

Award Categories

The research awards at AzTU are structured as follows:

1. **Outstanding Researcher Award:** Awarded to individuals demonstrating exceptional research achievements in their field.
2. **Best Interdisciplinary Research Award:** Recognizes outstanding research that bridges multiple academic disciplines.
3. **Innovative Project Award:** Given to groundbreaking projects with significant technological or societal impact.
4. **Young Researcher Award:** Designed for early-career researchers who show promise and excellence in their work.
5. **Collaborative Research Award:** Awarded to teams or projects that foster collaboration with industry, international partners, or cross-disciplinary teams.

In addition, AzTU introduces the **Interdisciplinary Research Payment Award**, a financial incentive for researchers who lead or contribute significantly to groundbreaking interdisciplinary research projects. This award is aligned with the following criteria:

- **Collaboration Across Multiple Disciplines:** Prioritizes projects that integrate expertise from at least two distinct academic fields. Projects combining novel approaches and methodologies from multiple disciplines are favored.
- **Research Impact:** The award is granted to projects with high potential for innovation, practical application, or societal impact, including advancements in technology, solutions for global challenges, and contributions to sustainable development.
- **Outstanding Contributions:** Recognizes individuals demonstrating exceptional leadership, innovation, and collaboration in interdisciplinary research efforts. This includes successfully managing cross-disciplinary teams, publishing high-impact interdisciplinary papers, or developing new research methodologies.
- **Achievement in Interdisciplinary Goals:** The award can be given to individuals or research teams who have significantly advanced interdisciplinary goals, such as

publishing in high-impact journals, participating in leading interdisciplinary conferences, or receiving industry recognition.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for awards, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a faculty member, researcher, or student at AzTU.
- Have made a significant contribution to the research community through publications, patents, or project outcomes.
- Have demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary and cross-departmental collaboration.
- Meet any specific award category requirements, such as early career status for the Young Researcher Award.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will be conducted through the AMAS (Academic Management and Award System), which ensures transparency and fairness. The steps involved include:

- **Submission:** Researchers must submit their achievements through AMAS, including publications, research project reports, patents, and other relevant materials.
- **Peer Review:** A panel of experts will review submissions based on the award category criteria.
- **Performance Metrics:** Submissions will be evaluated based on established performance indicators such as:
 - Number and quality of publications (indexed journals, citations)
 - Completion and outcomes of research projects
 - Innovation and impact on society/industry
 - Collaboration and networking achievements
 - Contribution to advancing the university's research goals
- **Final Decision:** Based on the review, the panel will recommend awardees, which will be approved by the University Council.

Awards and Recognition

Awardees will receive the following:

- **Certificate of Excellence:** An official certificate recognizing the individual's or team's research achievements.
- **Monetary Reward:** A financial award determined by the category of the research achievement.
- **Public Recognition:** Inclusion in the university's annual research award ceremony and announcement in university communications (website, newsletters).
- **Research Grant:** For some categories, a research grant may be awarded to further support the recipient's ongoing research.

Ethical Considerations

- **Fairness:** All candidates will be evaluated equally based on their merit and research contributions.
- **Transparency:** The evaluation criteria and process will be clearly communicated to all researchers.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Members of the review panel will disclose any conflicts of interest prior to evaluation.