



MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK

(Established under Haryana Act No. XXV of 1975)

'A+' Grade University accredited by NAAC

No. AC-I/F-614/2023/ 859-902

Dated: 04.01.2023, 15/01/2023

To

1. All the HODs/Directors of UTDs/Institutes/Centres, M. D. University, Rohtak.
2. The Director, MDU-Centre for Professional & Allied Studies, Gurugram.
3. Director (CIIE), M.D. University, Rohtak

Sub.: MDU-Innovation and Startup Policy.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to inform that the Vice-Chancellor has been pleased to approve the MDU-Innovation and Startup Policy in anticipation approval of Academic Council / Executive Council as recommended by the Committee in its meeting held on 27.12.2022 (copy enclosed).

This is for your information and further necessary action.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

OSD (Academic)
for Registrar

Endst. No. AC-I/ F-614/2023/ 903-912

Dated: 15/01/2023

Copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Director Research, M.D. University, Rohtak.
2. Director Centre for IPR Studies, M.D. University, Rohtak
3. Director, IQAC, M.D. University, Rohtak
4. Prof. Rahul Rishi, UIET, M.D. University, Rohtak
5. Prof. Munish Garg, Deptt. of Pharm. Sciences, M.D. University, Rohtak
6. Prof. Sandeep Malik, Director IHTM, M.D. University, Rohtak
7. Prof. Prabhakar Kaushik, UIET, M.D. University, Rohtak
8. OSD/PA to Vice-Chancellor, DAA, Registrar, M.D. University, Rohtak (for information to the Vice-Chancellor, DAA and Registrar).

OSD (Academic)

MDU- Innovation and Startup Policy

PREAMBLE

The transformation to entrepreneurial economy has been accompanied by growing interest in entrepreneurship among the students, as well as increased recognition within corporate sector as entrepreneurial abilities are becoming increasingly important to their own success. In tune with initiatives of Government of India i.e. National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP), 2019 and National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, a policy in this regard has been formulated as “MDU-Innovation and Startup Policy (MISP)” for students and faculty to address the innovation and entrepreneurial culture in the University. The focus of the policy is to guide the students and faculty members in implementing the action plan of incubation, innovation and startup.

OBJECTIVES

The MDU-Innovation and Startup Policy (MISP) has following key objectives :

- To nurture the ideas of the students and faculty in an effective manner so as to convert them in successful startups and entrepreneurial ventures
- To shift the focus of the stakeholders from “being employee” to “become employer”
- To nurture an IPR savvy environment for creation of Intellectual Property and protection of IPRs
- To accelerate technology development and technology transfer to the Industry
- To facilitate channelization of University innovations into start-ups through incubation to become a wheel of Socio-economic development and of national progress
- To develop skilled manpower needed for the emerging requirements of the Industry.

NURTURING INNOVATIONS AND STRTUPS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The university will establish processes and mechanisms for easy creation and nurturing of Startups/enterprises by students (UG, PG, Ph.D.), staff (including temporary or project staff), faculty, alumni and potential start up applicants even from outside the institutions. The following components will be developed to nurture the innovation and startup culture in the university.

Pre incubation facility

It is very important to primarily identify which ideas can successfully go through the incubation process. This phase of pre-incubation can prepare student entrepreneurs for the incubation phase by providing them prerequisite skills and knowledge that will help them validate and assess their ideas as well as define their business models in detail. In the pre-incubation planning phase, the following activities are to be performed:

Idea generation: Depending upon the problems, the innovator will be required to come out with a potential solution for a specific problem. That idea should be novel, innovative and can be able to solve a real life problem effectively.

Collection of Ideas: Students have to submit the ideas in proper format to the university through online mode. The ideas may be considered to take part in smart India Hackathon and National Innovation Contest i.e. conducted by MoE.

Screening of Ideas: The ideas submitted by the applicants will be screened by a constituted expert committee. Selected ideas may be invited to give presentation before the evaluation committee based on their potency of idea they will be shortlisted.

Supporting, mentoring and strengthening of ideas: The shortlisted ideas will be nurtured through technical and financial support as decided by the committee and each idea will be developed under mentorship of a mentor from the university. Under his/her provision ideas may go to the incubation stage.

Prototype development: The innovators will have to prepare a prototype for their ideas. The prototype may be prepared under direct supervision of mentor assigned.

Business plan preparation: Workshops will be conducted on 'business plan development' for awareness of students by inviting renowned expert from industry or academia. Selected ideas will be required to present their business plan with market analysis.

Registration of Start-up: The Student Start-up needs to be registered under a form of business entity like Partnership Firm, LLP, Private Limited Company and One Person Company. Start-ups should be able to provide a copy of the registration certificate/letter to the university.

Incubation facility

After the process of pre-incubation, students have to be admitted in MDU-TBI for availing incubation facility. The objective of the incubation facility is to promote the received students ideas into successful startups. For this noble cause a number of facilities and services will be provided by MDU-TBI to incubatees so that the innovative ideas can be converted to successful startups. The university will offer access to pre-incubation and Incubation facility to start ups by students, staff and faculty for mutually acceptable time-frame.

Licensing of IPR from institute to start up

The students and faculty members intending to initiate a start up based on the technology developed or co-developed by them or the technology owned by the institute, will be allowed to take a license on the said technology on easy term, either in terms of equity in the venture and/ or license fees and/ or royalty to obviate the early stage financial burden.

The facilities of the University can be utilized by the inventors for the development of product/prototype of the product/any part thereof. In such cases, the IPR is to be owned by the University and will be governed by the IPR policy of the University.

The product will be licensed in the name of the University and the innovators team will be enlisted as inventor(s)

In return of the services and facilities, institute may take 2% to 9.5% equity/ stake in the startup/company, based on brand used, faculty contribution, support provided and use of institute's IPR (a limit of 9.5% is suggested so that institute has no legal liability arising out of startup.). Other factors for consideration should be space, infrastructure, mentorship support, seed funds, support for accounts, legal, patents etc. The duration of university share shall be reviewed by a constituted committee and will be decided on case to case basis.

NORMS FOR THE STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FACULTY

- The university will allow its students /staff to work on their innovative projects and setting up start ups (including Social Start ups) or work as intern / part-time in startups (incubated in any recognized HEIs/Incubators) while studying / working. Student inventors may also be allowed to opt for start up in place of their mini project/ major project, seminars, summer trainings. The area in which student wants to initiate a start up may be interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary. The salient features of incubation process are given in the following.
- The student must describe how they will separate and clearly distinguish their ongoing research activities as a student from the work being conducted at the start up.
- Students who are under incubation, but are pursuing some entrepreneurial ventures while studying will be allowed to use their address in the university to register their company with due permission from the university in advance.
- Students entrepreneurs may be allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less than the minimum permissible percentage, with due permission from the institute. A maximum of 20 % relaxation shall be allowed in addition to the existing provisions of the university in this regard. Other type of relaxations for the students shall be decided case to case basis.
- The university would set up a review committee for review of start up by students, and based on the progress made, it may consider giving appropriate credits for academics.
- The norms for students will equally applicable for Alumni of the university.

- Faculty and staffs will be allowed to take off for a semester / year (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) as unpaid leave/ casual leave/ earned leave for working on startups and come back.
- The university will allow the use of its resource to faculty/students/staff wishing to establish start up as a fulltime effort. The seniority and other academic benefits during such period may be preserved for such staff or faculty.
- The university will facilitate the startup activities/ technology development by allowing students/ faculty/staff to use institute infrastructure and facilities, as per the choice of the potential entrepreneurs.
- The university may also link the startups to other seed-fund providers/ angel funds/ venture funds or itself may set up seed-fund once the incubation activities mature.
- For staff and faculty, institute can take no-more than 20% of shares that staff / faculty takes while drawing full salary from the institution; however, this share will be within the 9.5% cap of company shares, listed above.
- No restriction on shares that faculty / staff can take, as long as they do not spend more than 20% of office time on the startup in advisory or consultative role and do not compromise with their existing academic and administrative work / duties. In case the faculty/ staff holds the executive or managerial position for more than three months in a startup, then they will go on sabbatical/ leave without pay/ earned leave.
- The university would also provide services based on mixture of equity, fee-based and/or zero payment model. So, a startup may choose to avail only the support, not seed funding, by the institute on rental basis.
- Participation in startup related activities shall be a legitimate activity of faculty in addition to teaching, R&D projects, industrial consultancy and management duties and shall be considered while evaluating the annual performance of the faculty. Every faculty shall be encouraged to mentor at least one startup.
- Product development and commercialization as well as participating and nurturing of startups may be added to a bucket of faculty-duties in future and each faculty would choose a mix and match of these activities (in addition to minimum required teaching and guidance) and then respective faculty are evaluated accordingly for their performance and promotion as per rules.
- Wherever necessary, the university shall update/change/revise performance evaluation policies for faculty and staff from time to time.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL)



(Image source :

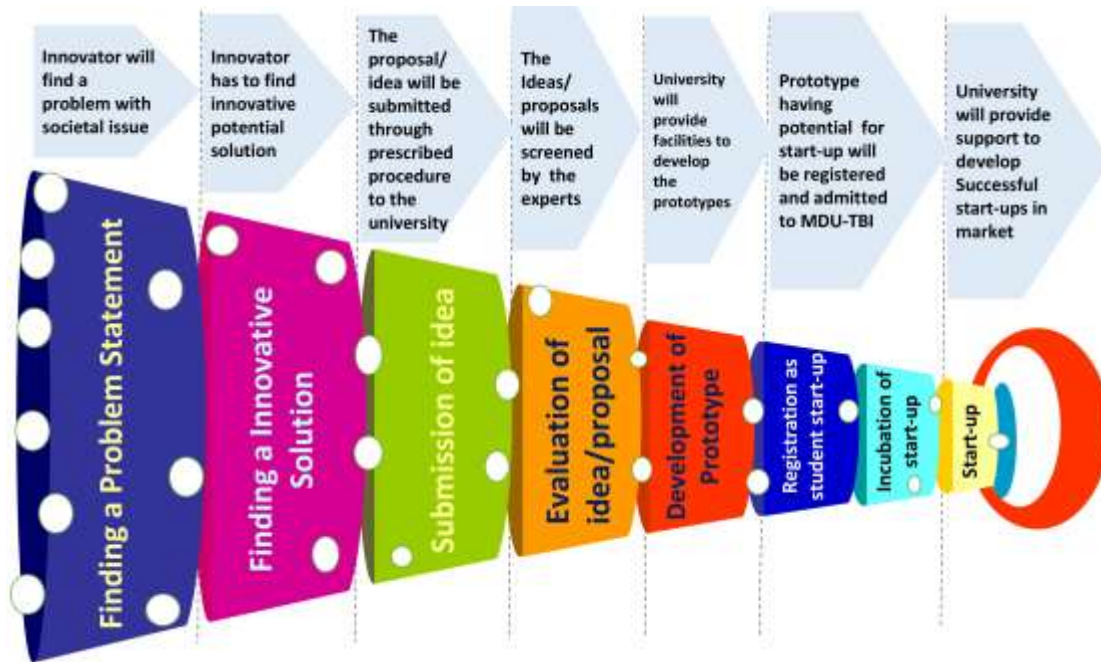
<https://www.twi-global.com/technical-knowledge/faqs/technology-readiness-levels>)

Technology Readiness Level Examples

TRL	Description	Example
1	Basic principles observed	Scientific observations made and reported. Examples could include paper-based studies of a technology's basic properties.
2	Technology concept formulated	Envisioned applications are speculative at this stage. Examples are often limited to analytical studies.
3	Experimental proof of concept	Effective research and development initiated. Examples include studies and laboratory measurements to validate analytical predictions.
4	Technology validated in lab	Technology validated through designed investigation. Examples might include analysis of the technology parameter operating range. The results provide evidence that envisioned application performance requirements might be attainable.
5	Technology validated in relevant environment	Reliability of technology significantly increases. Examples could involve validation of a semi-integrated system/model of technological and supporting elements in a simulated environment.
6	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment	Prototype system verified. Examples might include a prototype system/model being produced and demonstrated in a simulated environment.
7	System model or prototype demonstration in operational environment	A major step increase in technological maturity. Examples could include a prototype model/system being verified in an operational environment.
8	System complete and qualified	System/model produced and qualified. An example might include the knowledge generated from TRL 7 being used to manufacture an actual system/model, which is subsequently qualified in an operational environment. In most cases, this TRL represents the end of development.
9	Actual system proven in operational environment	System/model proven and ready for full commercial deployment. An example includes the actual system/model being successfully deployed for multiple missions by end users.

(Table Source :

<https://www.twi-global.com/technical-knowledge/faqs/technology-readiness-levels>)



Flow Chart of the process of innovation and startup at the university.

DISCLAIMER

MDU does not guarantee success and/or feasibility of the technology transferred from the Institute. MDU or any person representing them shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of the incubated company.

The above policy is subject to periodical review and amendment at any time.

Any/all disputed between the parties shall be referred for arbitration to the Vice Chancellor, MDU or person so nominated by him/her, whose decision will be final and binding upon the parties. The place of arbitration shall be Rohtak.

Annexure 1

PRIORITY AREAS OF INNOVATIONS AND STARTUPS (Tentative suggested)

The innovative ideas could be in the form of product development, process development and anything which could enhance the performance of existing practices. It is highly desirable that the concept should be innovative and should address to solve one of the social, economic and process problems. The following are the priority areas of the university:

- Healthcare products including herbal plants, formulations and and Biomedical devices.
- Technology based on Agriculture, Rural Development, Social entrepreneurship.
- Smart Vehicles/ Electric vehicle/ Electric vehicle motor and battery technology.
- Food Processing and innovative hospitality management
- Robotics and Drones.
- Waste management, Clean and Potable water.
- Renewable and affordable Energy.
- IoT based technologies (e.g. Security & Surveillance systems etc.)
- ICT, cyber-physical systems, Blockchain, Cognitive computing, Cloud computing, AI & ML.
- Innovative educational tools and processes.