



St. Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering & Technology

A Christian Minority Autonomous Institution affiliated to RTM Nagpur University
Managed by *The Nagpur Pallottine Society*

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Students' R&D Policy 2026-27

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Research & Development Policy for Students

Academic Year 2026-27

1. Objectives:

1. To promote research culture among students in the institution.
2. To develop research capability of students by improving participation in Technical events / National & International Conferences / Research Publications in Reputed Journals.

2. Research Policy for attending technical events, journal publications, conferences & collaborative projects

- Students presenting papers at reputed conferences organized by top-ranked engineering or science institutes, national research centers, industries of high repute within the country, or indexed by Scopus/WoS shall be eligible to receive 100% reimbursement of the registration fee, subject to a maximum of 6000/-, and 100% travel allowance (limited to second-class railway fare or equivalent). Travel allowance shall be provided for only one registered student author per paper.
- Students securing the first three ranks in paper or poster presentation competitions at the above-mentioned institutes or events shall be eligible for 100% reimbursement of the registration fee.
- Students shall be awarded incentive marks for publishing research papers in conferences and journals, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Academic Regulations.
- Furthermore, if a paper is published in an indexed journal with the student as the first author, an incentive amount shall be awarded in accordance with the following table.

Table 1: Incentives for Journal Publications

Journal Indexing	Incentive Amount
SCI, SCIE, SSCI	Rs.10,000/-
Scopus	Rs. 6,000/-
Web of Science- ESCI	Rs. 3,500/-

- All applications for incentives or reimbursement of publication expenses shall be submitted to the R&D Cell, with the due recommendation of the Head of the Department (HoD), along with the bank details of the corresponding student.
- Collaborative UG/PG project with institutes of National repute or National Research Institutions will be supported by the Institute. This includes to & fro 2nd class railway fare or equivalent (Application to be forwarded through HoD).
- The institute shall support students undertaking training programs at premier institutions such as IITs and NITs by bearing the associated training fees. This financial support will be extended only upon the recommendation and approval of the Head of the Department (HoD). Each case will be considered on merit, subject to the availability of institutional funds and adherence to relevant guidelines.

2.1 Students R&D Cell

- Students' R&D Cell shall be constituted to promote and coordinate research activities among students.
- Students' coordinators (1-2, actively engage in R&D activities) from every department shall be the members in the cell
- Students R&D cell shall be responsible for creating R&D awareness among students.

3. Publication Targets for M.Tech & Ph.D. Students

For M.Tech Students:

- **Minimum Requirement:**
 - One paper presented at a Scopus-indexed conference
 - To be completed during the total tenure of the program.

For Ph.D. Students:

- **Minimum Requirement:**
 - Two papers published in SCI or Scopus-indexed journals, and

- Two papers presented at conferences (of which at least one must be Scopus-indexed)
- To be completed during the total tenure of the program.

Note: - Affiliation in publication must be as under “St. Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering & Technology, Nagpur”

4. Plagiarism Checking

- The Institute provides Turnitin plagiarism detection software through the library for students. In line with the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018, plagiarism check is mandatory for all conference and journal publications by students (UG/PG/Research Scholars), UG/PG/Ph.D. theses, patent and copyright content, funding proposals, and mini project reports.
- The similarity score, excluding references, shall not exceed 10%, in accordance with the Level 0 threshold specified under the said Regulations.

5. Best Project Award for Final Year Students

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Best Project Award

Categories

- The Best Project Award shall be conducted in two categories:
 - **Category A – Core Branches:** Mechanical Engineering (ME), Electrical Engineering (EE), Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (ETC), and Civil Engineering (CE).
 - **Category B – Software Branches:** Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Information Technology (IT), and allied software-based disciplines.

Eligibility

- This award is open exclusively to final year student project groups.

- Each project group must be mentored and guided by a faculty member from their respective department in academic session 2026-27.
- It is mandatory for all students claiming the Best Project Award to publish at least one paper in a reputed conference, peer-reviewed journal, or file a patent.
- Only project groups falling under the following categories shall be considered:
 - **Category A (Core):** A working model or prototype developed by the project group and available in the department, college, or industry (in case of an industry-based project), or Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE)/ Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis-based projects.
 - **Category B (Software):** A working software module developed using programming tools such as Python, C, C++, or equivalent, or an AI/ML-based application or web/mobile application with demonstrated functionality.

Shortlisting at Department Level

- Each department shall shortlist and nominate their best project groups for centralized institute-level evaluation within their respective category.
- Departments with an intake of 60 shall nominate 2 project groups.
- Departments with an intake of 120 shall nominate 4 project groups.

Institute-Level Evaluation

- All shortlisted project groups shall be evaluated centrally at the institute level, separately for Category A and Category B.
- An evaluation committee appointed by the R&D Cell shall assess all nominated projects within each category.
- The evaluation committee shall consist of the following members:
 - External Expert Evaluator from Academia (relevant to the category)
 - Expert Evaluator from Industry (relevant to the category)
 - R&D Coordinator / Co-coordinator

- Departmental Project Coordinator (for coordination only)
- The committee shall evaluate projects based on innovation, technical complexity, working demonstration, real-world applicability, cost effectiveness, and quality of documentation.

Award and Prize

- Category A (Core) and Category B (Software) shall have an equal prize pool.
 - First Place – ₹25,000/-
 - Second Place – ₹20,000/-
 - Third Place – ₹15,000/-
- Total Prize Pool per Category: ₹60,000/-
- Total Institute Prize Pool: ₹1,20,000/-

6. Books/Book Chapters

Student contributing as a single author to a book or book chapter will be entitled to following incentive amount. If there is more than 1 author (from the same or other Institute) then the incentive amount will be shared proportionately.

Book/Book Chapter	Incentive Amount
Book-International Publisher (like Pearson, RELX, Thomson Reuters, Penguin Random House, Macmillan Publishers, McGraw-Hill Education, PHI, IEEE)	Rs. 15,000/-
Book-National Publisher	Rs. 3000/-
Book Chapters (Indexed by Scopus/WoS)	Rs. 2000/- per chapter to Maximum Rs. 6,000/-

7. Patents, Copyrights

Students can apply and obtain patents for their contribution in the form of a product, innovation, technology, etc. from National and International agencies.

- All the patent applications shall be processed through R&D Cell.

- The applicant should be, “St. Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering & Technology, Nagpur” (Don’t use short forms).
- Students shall be eligible to receive financial assistance for copyright registration, limited to reimbursement of the actual application fees.

8. Policy of Funding for SAE / E-Vehicle / Formula etc.

a. Policy for BAJA SAEINDIA (BSI) or mBAJA Enduro Student India (ESI), Formula Bharat, Formula Bharat (Electric) or eBAJA

The institute provides financial assistance such as:

- 30% of overall Cost (60% in case of e-BAJA) will be funded by the institute.
- Additional 10% cost will be allotted if team positions itself in top 10 ranks.
- Additional 5% will be given if team positions itself in top 3 ranks.

b. Other mandatory guidelines

* Procurement will be in the name of college only.

** College contribution will be decided on the basis of an estimated cost report that the team would submit as soon as they qualify for any of the above-mentioned events.

*** (i) Electric vehicle development project is initiated by the college. For initial years college will support the finances as per the above-mentioned share to avoid financial hiccups in the vehicle development.

(ii) Overall Cost of electric vehicle fabrication is 20-30% more than the ATV or formula vehicle.

9. Full-Time Research Scholars – Institute Research Fellowship

9.1 Purpose

To strengthen the research ecosystem of the Institute, a scheme of Institute-funded Full-Time Research Fellowships is introduced to attract meritorious candidates to pursue full-time Ph.D. research under recognized supervisors of the Institute.

9.2 Advertisement and Outreach

- The Institute shall issue an open advertisement for Full-Time Research Fellowship positions at least once every academic year, in line with the Ph.D. admission cycle of RTM Nagpur University.
- The advertisement shall be published on the Institute website, official social media handles, and the notice boards of all departments.
- The advertisement shall clearly specify the research areas/vacancies, name of the supervisor(s), eligibility criteria, stipend and tenure, mode of selection, last date of application, and the prescribed application format.
- The R&D Cell shall be the nodal agency for issuing the advertisement, receiving applications, and coordinating the selection process.

9.3 Eligibility

- The eligibility of a candidate for admission to the Ph.D. programme and consequently for the Institute Research Fellowship shall be strictly as per the directions, ordinances, and notifications issued by Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) from time to time, including any amendments thereto.

9.4 Selection

- Selection shall be made by a Selection Committee constituted by the Principal, comprising the R&D Coordinator, the Head of the concerned Department, the proposed Research Supervisor, and RAC members appointed by the University.
- Selection shall be based on academic record, performance in a written test and interview, research aptitude, and prior research output (publications/patents), if any.
- The recommendation of the Selection Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Principal.

9.5 Stipend and Tenure

- A selected Full-Time Research Scholar shall be paid a consolidated monthly stipend of ₹20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only).
- The fellowship shall be granted initially for a period of one year, extendable annually up to a maximum of three years, subject to satisfactory progress certified by the Research Supervisor and recommended by the R&D Cell.
- The stipend shall be released monthly on the basis of an attendance and progress certificate signed by the Research Supervisor and forwarded by the Head of the Department.
- Applicable statutory deductions, if any, shall be made as per prevailing rules.

9.6 Duties and Obligations of the Research Scholar

- The scholar shall work full-time on the approved research problem and shall maintain regular attendance in the Institute as per the working hours notified by the Institute.
- The scholar shall assist the Department in academic and laboratory activities for a maximum of eight (08) hours per week, without detriment to research work.
- The scholar shall submit a written progress report every six months to the R&D Cell and shall present the same before the Departmental Research Committee.
- The scholar shall fulfil the publication requirements prescribed under Section 3 of this policy, and all publications shall carry the affiliation "St. Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering & Technology, Nagpur."
- Intellectual property arising out of the research work shall be governed by the Institute's IPR provisions under Section 7 of this policy.
- The scholar shall be eligible for all applicable benefits under Sections 2, 6, and 7 of this policy (conference support, publication incentives, book/book chapter incentives, and patent/copyright assistance).

9.7 Discontinuation

- The fellowship may be discontinued at any time on grounds of unsatisfactory progress, prolonged unauthorized absence, indiscipline, breach of academic integrity (including plagiarism beyond the limits stipulated in Section 4), or acceptance of any other employment or fellowship without written permission of the principal.
- A scholar wishing to surrender the fellowship shall give one month's prior written notice through the Research Supervisor and Head of the Department.
- The total number of fellowships sanctioned in any academic year shall be determined by the Management, subject to availability of institutional funds.



30.07.2026

Dr. Prashant Maheshwary

Principal



Dr. Fr. Paul Chandrankunnel

Director