

Research and Scholarly Activity Policy

1. Policy Statement

This policy sets out our approach to the enhancement, development and support of research and scholarship for all staff at Bishop Burton College

The aim of the policy is to promote a scholarly culture where staff are demonstrating contemporary and current teaching, learning and assessment practices. It is a commitment to a learning environment in which scholarly activity and reflective practice are firmly embedded for students' benefit.

2. Definition

We define scholarship as an activity or activities with the potential to:

- Create or affirm knowledge and/or expertise of a subject or discipline.
- Create and pursue new knowledge to enhance teaching and learning.
- Develop curricula through advancing knowledge in the subject area.
- Raise awareness amongst students of research, enabling them to challenge research and making them research active.
- Enhance the student experience by providing a scholarly environment, thus enabling the achievement of the best outcomes possible and increasing employability.
- Enhance the reputation of the college and contribute to retaining a TEF award.
- Raise the national profile of Higher Education in a Further Education setting.

Activities should be designed to have demonstrable impact on the student learning experience and the College academic and professional community, through research led and research informed learning, teaching and assessment.

3. Links

- Bishop Burton Higher Education Strategy 2020-2025
- UK Professional Standards Framework (Advance HE, 2023)
- Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework 2023 (TEF)

4. Implementation

In order to be classed as scholarly activity, “it must be shared with peers, disseminated across the institution and possibly beyond and used to enhance the student experience.” (King and Widdowson, 2010, p. 3). These activities go beyond Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or training and promote a deeper understanding of the subject matter or the knowledge creation process, either to the individual and/or to a wider audience.

All research activity within the college must be conducted with the approval from the Research and Scholarly Activity Group and in line with the Research Ethics Policy.

- HE Academic Leads (HEALs) will set scholarship objectives aligned to the UK Professional Standards Framework for all staff engaged with HE delivery within annual Professional Development Reviews (PDR).
- Observation of teaching and learning will identify where excellent pedagogical practice occurs or scholarly activity is evident in enhancing taught sessions. Observers will support action planning where good practice can be shared.
- Higher Education Academic Management Group (HEAMG) will provide a schedule of staff development activity which promotes the sharing of good practice and engagement with scholarly activity for all staff.
- The College will support suitable Continuous Professional Development activity and provide opportunities to cascade information to colleagues through the staff development process.
- The Research Group will oversee, co-ordinate, support and promote applied research at the college.
- The Ethics and Welfare Committee will provide information, guidance and approval of any research activity.
- The Assistant Principal HE or nominee will schedule an annual Teaching and Learning Conference.
- The Assistant Principal HE or nominee will schedule an annual showcase event of final year research and projects.
- The Deputy Principal Human Resources and Operational Services will allocate an annual budget to the Scholarly Activity Committee.
- The Scholarly Activity Committee will decide what activity will be supported and report to HEAMG.

5. Method of Monitoring and Evaluation

- Managers will review research and scholarship with individuals on a regular basis through one-to-one meetings and appraisals.
- Student surveys.
- Research and scholarly activity will be a key feature in departmental self-assessments and quality improvement plans.
- Any research and scholarly activity will be discussed within quality review meetings.
- Research and scholarly activity will be clearly linked to the Quality Assurance Agency Quality Code and the Teaching Excellence Framework.
- Staff wishing to apply for a HE Fellowship to include details of their research and scholarly activity.
- Feedback from University partners
- Self-evaluation at department and college level

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Policy Approval

Approval By Corporation
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