

Tula's Innovation & Startup Policy (Tula's - ISP)



TULA'S INSTITUTE
DEHRADUN
FOR A BIGGER BETTER FUTURE

NAACA+
accredited institute



● Approved by AICTE, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India ● ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 50001:2018
Affiliated: VMSB Uttarakhand Technical University × Sri Dev Suman Uttarakhand University × Uttarakhand Board of Technical Education

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Tula's Institute Dehradun Innovation & Startup Policy

1. Preamble

At Tula's Institute, we are dedicated to generating knowledge and its dissemination. We recognize the significant impact entrepreneurship can have on addressing scientific and technical challenges, and we acknowledge the crucial role of Startups in commercializing Intellectual Property (IP) derived from our research activities. The Institute is committed to fostering entrepreneurship among its staff and students and prioritizes the commercialization of its IP in a way that incentivizes and encourages entrepreneurial ventures.

With this policy, Tula's Institute aims to:

- a) **Promote Entrepreneurship:** This innovation and startup policy intends to create and nurture an entrepreneurial ecosystem that encourages co-creation involving students, faculty, and professionals from various disciplines. It provides a framework for the involvement of the Institute's staff and students in turning research into products, services, and processes.
- b) **Offer Entrepreneurship Guidance:** The Institute has established a Technology Business Incubator on campus to provide entrepreneurs with necessary guidance, mentorship, and infrastructure support.
- c) **Ensure Balance of Interests:** This policy emphasizes that the primary commitment of time and intellectual contributions of staff should be towards education, research, and other obligations of the Institute. Staff must avoid any conflicts of interest (COI) and conflicts of commitment (COC).

This policy is subject to periodic review and amendments. Tula's Institute reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis as deemed necessary.

2. Definitions

1. **Government:** Refers to the Central Government of India and the State Government of Uttarakhand, as applicable.
2. **Institute:** Tula's Institute Dehradun.
3. **Policy:** Tula's Institute Innovation & Startup Policy.
4. **Faculty Member:** Any faculty member of Tula's Institute.
5. **Student:** Any full-time student studying at Tula's Institute.
6. **Institute Member:** Any permanent faculty member, research associate, post-doctoral fellow, student with live registration, or alumni.
7. **Startup/Venture/Company:** An entity developing a scalable and self-reliant business model based on product or service innovation, as defined by prevailing notifications of the Government of India.
8. **Promoter:** As defined under the Companies Act 2013, subject to current rules and notifications by the Government of India.
9. **Executive Capacity:** Roles such as Director, CEO, COO, or Manager in a company.
10. **Equity Share:** A fractional ownership in a business venture.
11. **Knowledgebase:** All inventions/innovations, including trade secrets, know-how, proprietary information, technical data, software, designs, and support services.
12. **Incubator:** Tula's Institute Technology Business Incubator.

13. Incubation: The process of a startup using seed funds, research grants, and/or office space at the Incubator.
14. Intellectual Property (IP): All outputs of creative endeavours at Tula's Institute for which legal rights may be obtained or enforced under the law.

3. Vision

Tula's Institute aims to emerge as an academic centre by creating and developing world-class professionals promoting innovation and research.

4. Mission

- To Promote intellectual and skilled human capital generating employment and entrepreneurship.
- To Be an educational centre of excellence of multi-ethnicity and diversity.
- To Establish a technology-driven teaching-learning institution.
- To Provide a world-class platform for research and innovation.
- To Inculcate social, environmental, and heritage values.

6. Objectives

- **Foster Innovation:** Encourage students, faculty, and alumni to transform their ideas and innovations into commercially viable products or processes in line with the Tula's ISP policy.
- **Promote Technology-driven Startups:** Support students, faculty, and alumni in creating technology-driven startups utilizing local resources to generate employment opportunities and benefit many rural communities.
- **Provide Infrastructure and Support:** Offer comprehensive infrastructure for new startups, including technical support, mentoring, seed funding for early-stage startups, development funds for commercialization, IP protection, technology transfer, and commercialization assistance.
- **Enhance Industry Collaboration:** Promote collaborative ventures between industry and institute students to develop marketable products and services driven by industry needs.
- **Develop Self-sustainable Models:** Establish self-sustainable campus startup models across various engineering and technology disciplines.

7. Governance

The implementation and oversight of the policy will be managed by a committee consisting of the following members:

1. Director
2. Dean Research & Development
3. NISP Coordinator
4. Institution Innovation Council Convener
5. Industry/Entrepreneur Representative

6. Senior Faculty Member
7. Other eminent and subject experts

The ultimate decision-making authority for granting permissions to staff and student-led startups will be the Director of Tula's Institute.

8. Operating Rules & Regulations

8.1 Eligibility

1. UG, & PG Students
2. Project staff
3. Alumni
4. Faculty and staff (current and retired) including adjunct faculty

8.2 Types of Companies

Tula's Institute aims to promote the following types of companies:

Type	Requirement	Aim	Technology Readiness Level
Technology Development	Basic idea	Converting a project idea into a product	TRL 3
Technology Demonstration	Proof of concept/patent applied	Demonstrating the product to customers	TRL 5
Market Development	Certification of product utility from customers	Establishing capacity to scale and market product	TRL 6

Support by a technology promotion agency (government or non-government) will be advantageous. IT-based ideas not involving physical product development may also be considered.

8.3 Faculty Startup Framework

1. Faculty must obtain prior permission from the Institute before associating with or starting a new venture.
2. Faculty can choose one of the following options:
 - a) Provide consultancy in a non-executive capacity while being a full-time member of Tula's Institute.
 - b) Undertake projects at the Institute and manage them through the company with explicit permission and an agreement.

3. Faculty/staff can use Institute infrastructure and facilities, subject to availability and lab norms.
4. Part-time/full-time MS/MBA/PGDM programs in innovation and entrepreneurship are encouraged.
5. Institute supports members with infrastructure, mentorship, seed funds, legal support, and patents.
6. Startup-related activities are considered authentic faculty activities and will be evaluated during performance reviews.
7. Faculty can mentor student startups and become partners in entrepreneurial activities.
8. Commercializing a product will attract suitable incentives for faculty/staff.
9. Awards will be given to the best startups on campus.
10. Faculty can tie up with industries with committee approval.
11. Faculty must distinguish Institute research from startup activities.
12. Faculty startups selected by national or international accelerators may be granted leave for up to one year.
13. Faculty must not accept gifts from startups.
14. Faculty must not involve Institute staff in startup activities.
15. Human subject-related research in startups requires ethics committee clearance.

8.4 Student Startup Framework

1. Students under incubation can use the Institute address to register their company with permission.
2. Student entrepreneurs with low attendance due to entrepreneurial activities may be allowed to sit for exams with proof of work and prior permission.
3. Accommodation may be provided to student entrepreneurs on campus, subject to availability.
4. Students can attend training/mentoring activities across India to enhance their skills.
5. Institute supports members with infrastructure, mentorship, seed funds, legal support, and patents.

9. Mentoring for Students and Faculty

1. Mentoring services can be offered to students for fees, equity sharing, or at no cost.
2. Mentoring is provided by faculty and industrial partners through the innovation council.
3. Mentors help students focus on emerging technologies, identify industry problems, and gain hands-on experience.
4. Industry members guide incubates in shaping new ventures.

10. Industry Involvement

1. Tula's Institute promotes institutional preparation for meeting industrial needs through sponsored R&D projects.
2. The Institute encourages seminars, workshops, and industrial training programs.
3. Industry partnerships equip faculty with the latest practices to make students industry ready.
4. Focus on interacting with elite industries locally and establishing global partnerships.

11. Usage of Institute Resources & Intellectual Property

1. Institute resources and facilities will be extended to incubates for testing and product development at pre-agreed rates.
2. Intellectual property created using Institute resources is co-owned by the members and the Institute.
3. IP developed without Institute facilities is owned by the creators, who can license it or use it as they see fit.
4. Disputes in IP ownership will be resolved by a committee of faculty, alumni/industry experts, and a legal advisor.
5. The Institute will decide on patenting if it funds the patent filing.
6. Interdisciplinary research and publication are encouraged.
7. Faculty should actively apply for government and non-government research and seed money funds.
8. The Institute may provide funding support to startups as grants, seed funds, or loans, with equity taken as per regulations.

12. Equity Allocations

1. The Institute may take equity in companies for:
 - a) Use of Institute resources including IP.
 - b) Incubation.
 - c) Seed grants and/or grants in aid.
 - d) Loans provided by the Institute.
2. The Institute may take 2% to 9.5% equity in the startup to avoid legal liabilities.
3. Equity against loans/seed funds/grants-in-aid is independent of this limit.

13. Impact Assessment

Impact assessment for pre-incubation, incubation, and entrepreneurship development will be based on well-defined parameters. The commercial success of the product will determine the end impact score.

14. Resolution of Disputes

In cases where a faculty member's objectivity may be questioned due to their association with a company, the Institute may form an independent committee to investigate. Faculty may appeal committee decisions to the Director, whose decision is final.