

DELTA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Guidelines for the Evaluation and Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research Faculty

Delta University for Science and Technology

Guidelines for the Evaluation and Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research Faculty

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Effective Date: Academic Year 2025/2026

Applies To: All Faculty Members applying for promotion to Associate Professor and Full Professor.

Preamble and Strategic Purpose

In strict alignment with Delta University's Policy on Interdisciplinary Science (DU-ISR-2025-01) and leveraging the progressive directives of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Universities (SCU) 15th Cycle (2025-2028), Delta University mandates that solving complex global crises requires dismantling traditional academic silos.

This comprehensive document establishes a binding legal and operational framework to protect, rigorously evaluate, and aggressively reward researchers engaged in Interdisciplinary Science and Research (ISR), seamlessly merging Delta University's proprietary DELTA-IMPACT vision with national promotion pathways.

Article 1: The "Interdisciplinary Equivalence & Premium" Principle

1.1 Research outputs, publications, and executed projects operating across cross-disciplinary teams, or officially registered under the Faculty of Graduate Studies for Advanced Interdisciplinary Science Studies (FGSAIS), shall be granted full academic equivalence to traditional, single-discipline outputs.

1.2 The Interdisciplinary Premium Weighting: To actively incentivize boundary-crossing science, internal evaluation committees are mandated to apply a **Premium Weighting Factor.** A research publication demonstrating high methodological integration across fundamentally distinct faculties (e.g., Engineering and Clinical Medicine) shall be scored up to 25% higher in the candidate's overall portfolio compared to a standard single-discipline paper.

Article 2: Maximization of the SCU 15th Cycle (2025-2028) Guidelines

Delta University legally mandates the strategic utilization of SCU rules to benefit interdisciplinary researchers:

2.1 The Scientific Excellence Fast-Track (SCU Articles 23 & 24): ISR candidates who successfully publish in Q1 or Top 10% (Class A) global journals shall be officially nominated for the SCU "Scientific Excellence" (التميز العلمي) fast-track. These papers shall be granted a 100% (Excellent) score without requiring re-evaluation, rapidly accelerating the promotion timeline.

2.2 Maximizing Authorship Shares (SCU Article 22): Traditional academic fears of "diluted authorship" in mega-projects are hereby nullified. As per SCU Article 22, a candidate's authorship share is calculated based solely on the number of participants from the same general specialty. Therefore, a Delta researcher representing their discipline individually within a massive cross-faculty project shall legally receive the maximum **1.0 (100%) evaluation share**.

2.3 Activating the Interdisciplinary Reviewer Clause (SCU Article 15): When submitting the promotion file of a dual-track FGSAIS researcher to the SCU, the University Administration shall formally invoke the Interdisciplinary Specialty

(التخصص البيني) clause, requesting the SCU to form a customized, cross-disciplinary triad of reviewers (لجنة ثلاثية) to ensure fair external evaluation.

Article 3: Objective Evaluation Metrics (DELTA-IMPACT Alignment)

Quality and impact shall be evaluated using advanced, data-driven metrics:

3.1 Advanced Bibliometrics: Candidates demonstrating a high Interdisciplinarity Index (I-Index), or those whose publications are explicitly mapped to two or more UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), shall receive premium evaluation grades.

3.2 First-Author Equivalency in Mega-Projects: In complex interdisciplinary mega-projects involving large cross-faculty teams, the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) from the collaborating faculty shall be recognized with the exact same academic weight as the traditional First Author.

3.3 Patent Impact and Policy Impact: Aligned with new SCU definitions, the University Classification Center will append bibliometric reports demonstrating a candidate's **Patent Impact** (research cited in global patents) and **Policy Impact** (research utilized in public policy documents), serving as definitive proof of economic and societal translation.

Article 4: Rewarding Joint Supervision, Grant Acquisition, and Innovation

4.1 The Joint Supervision Index: Evaluation points for academic supervision shall be explicitly **doubled** for faculty members who successfully co-supervise Master's or PhD theses with colleagues from distinct faculties under the FGSAIS Dual-Track system.

4.2 National and International Funded Projects: Securing external funding as a cross-disciplinary consortium fulfills the highest criteria for promotion. Furthermore, documented evidence of merely applying for a comprehensive multi-disciplinary grant shall earn the candidate substantial positive credit, regardless of the final award outcome.

4.3 Patents and Product Development: The successful granting of a patent merging technologies from multiple disciplines shall be evaluated as equivalent to, or higher than, a Q1 publication. Candidates who co-develop tangible commercial prototypes with the industrial sector shall be granted immediate **Distinguished Status**.

Article 5: Scientific Activities, Entrepreneurship, and the Ecosystem Builder Credit

5.1 The Ecosystem Builder Credit: Should a candidate fall slightly short of traditional quantitative publication volume, the Promotion Committee is authorized to apply an Ecosystem Builder Credit. This compensates for publication counts by weighting the candidate's verifiable efforts in organizing cross-faculty platforms, SDG summits, and interdisciplinary conferences.

5.2 Entrepreneurial Capacity Building: Candidates who successfully acquire accredited certificates in entrepreneurship, technology transfer, or interdisciplinary capacity building (e.g., via the Egyptian Knowledge Bank) during their promotion cycle shall receive premium evaluation credits.

5.3 Guaranteeing the 20-Point University Activity Score (SCU Article 29): To fulfill the SCU's **University Activity** requirement, Deans are legally mandated to grant the **maximum 20 points** to faculty members whose overall **DELTA-IMPACT**

evaluation score achieves the "Distinguished" or "Excellent" threshold. This ensures that the university's internal metrics, specifically cross-faculty synergy, SDG semantic mapping, and economic translation, directly and automatically guarantee the national activity points required for promotion, removing subjective bias from the evaluation process.

Article 6: Institutional Recognition and Operational Privileges for ISR Champions

6.1 The University President shall host an annual scientific ceremony award to publicly award proactive staff members who pioneer boundary-crossing initiatives.

6.2 Faculty recognized as ISR Champions shall be granted a strategic teaching load reduction of up to 20%. This time must be reallocated toward managing cross-disciplinary research teams or mentoring interdisciplinary graduation projects.

6.3 ISR Champions shall receive priority weighting when applying for university-funded projects, and their collaborative achievements will be permanently featured on the Delta Synergy Digital Wall of Fame.

Article 7: Foundational Administrative Protection Procedures

To prevent administrative bottlenecks and protect interdisciplinary researchers from traditional departmental bias, the following procedures are mandatory:

7.1 Role of the Scientific Department Council: When reviewing research for promotion approval, the Department Council is legally obligated to accept interdisciplinary research as authentic scientific output. The council may not exclude or penalize a paper due to its overlap with other disciplines, and must

formally record the candidate's **Premium Weighting Factor** in the official meeting minutes.

7.2 Role of the Faculty Dean: Upon approving the promotion file, the Faculty Dean must ratify the appended "Interdisciplinary Impact Report." The Dean's signature serves as institutional confirmation that the candidate has elevated the faculty's KPIs in cross-disciplinary research, granting the researcher full institutional backing before the file is submitted to the SCU.

Approval and Ratification:

This policy is hereby ratified and effective immediately upon signature.

Prof. Dr. Yehia El-Mashad

President, Delta University for Science and Technology