

Tenure Completion Report

Submitted to
Vice Chancellor
Pokhara University

Submitted by
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Executive Director
20 August 2021 - 19 August 2025
Pokhara University Research Center
Pokhara University
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Acknowledgement

As my term of the Executive Director of Pokhara University Research Center (PURC) concludes today (19 August 2025), I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and reflection. The past four years, started on 20 August 2021, have been an incredible journey of learning, experience sharing, collegiality, and collaboration. It has been a profound honor to lead the PURC, and I am wholeheartedly thankful for the opportunity to serve this esteemed institution. I believe, I served this institution honestly, passionately, and professionally perhaps realizing the regulatory and operational limitations.

Working as an executive for four years and setting new milestones was only possible through the unconditional support and dedication of many minds, hands, and souls. I extend my sincere thanks to the university leadership for their trust and guidance. I am immensely grateful to experts, committee members, faculty members, researchers, students, administrative staff, and colleagues, whose intellectual rigor, curiosity, and commitment to excellence in research have been the driving force behind the seamless functioning of the PURC. Your honest and professional support has elevated the center's outreach and reputation among the broader academic community and society.

The close cooperation, guidance, and motivation from the members and experts of Executive Council, Academic Council, Research Management Committee, Research Evaluation Committee, Institutional Review Committee, and Research Management Cells of Pokhara University were noteworthy. The generous support of the internal and external reviewers was crucial which helped in keeping the pace of PURC activities on schedule. The cooperation of the heads and RMC heads from all the schools and colleges of Pokhara University is highly praised. I wholeheartedly extend my sincere gratitude to every single person for their outstanding intellectual inputs and support.

Working with multiple external collaborators including UNDP Nepal, Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Gandaki Province Academy of Science and Technology (GPAST), Nepal Research and Education Network (NREN), National Young Academy of Nepal (NaYAN), and AHF Nepal was full of opportunities to learn good practices and professional skills. I deeply appreciate the companionship and trust of all the colleagues that nurtured a lot to me professionally and to PURC institutionally.

To the entire squad of staff of and associated with the PURC, I truly appreciate your cooperation, commitment, passion, and dedication that you poured to make PURC lively and progressing. Your tireless efforts, professionalism, and team spirit have been the bedrock of our operations. I am confident that the progress we have made together is robust and I look forward to witnessing the future successes of the PURC. To my colleagues within and beyond Pokhara University, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your support and good wishes that enabled me to keep rolling on my role.

Finally, to my wife, I know I used to bring my office home almost every day, but it was you who managed to turn that office into a home to work and live. Every bit of achievement is a testament to your support and sacrifice. Thank you everyone for making my term a truly rewarding and unforgettable experience.

Executive Summary

Pokhara University Research Center (PURC) is mandated to promote research activities in academic and research institutions of Pokhara University. Executive Director is a fulltime executive of PURC with the regular term of four years. This report highlights the key activities and milestones achieved during the last four years (20 Aug 2021 - 19 Aug 2025) of my term as an Executive Director of PURC.

Key achievements

- i. PURC Meetings: Held 22 meetings of Research Management Committee and 102 meetings of Research Evaluation Committee.
- ii. Research Grants Support: 43 research grants were successfully concluded while 19 projects are under progress.
- iii. Formation of Research Management Cell: Research Management Cells were formulated in all 65 academic institutions (constituent, joint-constituent, and affiliated) running under Pokhara University.
- iv. Policy Reform: Revised PURC Research Grant Procedures, formulated and implemented Research Management Cell guidelines, and formulated and implemented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Institutional Review Committee for Health Research.
- v. PURC Seminar Series: 19 episodes of seminar series were organized with 33 presentations delivered by the experts from 9 countries including Nepal.
- vi. Nobel Laureate Seminar: Held an interaction seminar with the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts in the Pokhara University.
- vii. Collaboration: Collaborated with many national and international institutions including UNDP Nepal
- viii. Workshops, Symposia, and Conferences: Convened notable workshops, symposia, and conferences including the conference on Recent Trends in Science and Technology (RTSTI-2025).
- ix. International Projects: Worked on ERASMUS+ funded capacity building projects including Cybersecurity for All (CS4ALL) and Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Academia (MAGENDA).
- x. Despite Pokhara University's commitment to allocate approximately 3% of the annual budget for research and development, fifth strategic plan 2023-2028, PURC's budget and programs were merged in the Central office activities and never had independent budget allocation neither functioned as an independent research institution.

Recommendations

PURC should be developed as a fully functional and independent research center equipped with the state-of-the-art central research facilities for the applied research and innovation integrating them with the advanced research degree programs.

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1. Introduction

Research and Innovation (R&I) are the key activities leading to the knowledge generation that complement the teaching, learning, and entrepreneurship activities in higher education institutions. There is an increasing challenge in mainstreaming academic research and involving both faculty members and students in applied research and innovation activities maintaining the quality and integrity of the research in higher education institutions (HEIs) in Nepal.

2. Pokhara University Research Center

Pokhara University Research Center (PURC) is an umbrella institution established with the mandate to promote, regulate, and monetize the research and innovation activities conducted in the different academic and research institutions of Pokhara University. Realizing the need to excel in academic research and innovation activities and to align academic research with the agenda framed in the National Education Policy, Higher Education Policy, Pokhara University Act 2053, Pokhara University (PU) established the PURC in 2012.

PURC is dedicated to formulating, executing, and regulating the research and innovation policies, guidelines, and action plans to achieve the set goals and targets of PU. Harnessing the research expertise of its in-house human resource, PURC strives to strengthen the quality of research and innovation facilities to address the national development goals of the Government of Nepal (GON) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PURC endeavors to foster national and international collaborations to promote applied research and innovation activities addressing the priorities of GON and UN SDGs. The University has committed to spend approximately 3% of its operating budget on research and development during the period of the fifth strategic plan 2023-2028.

3. Guiding Principles

PURC is a central entity with a mandate to oversee research activities in academic and research institutions running within Pokhara University. PURC commits to the following principles to promote research and innovation activities at Pokhara University.

1. National Research and Innovation Priorities: PURC shall align research and innovation programs to complement the national research and innovation priorities.
2. Excellence in Research and Innovation: PURC shall provide research and innovation facilities to promote internationally competent research and innovation activities thereby improving the intellectual productivity and global ranking of Pokhara University. PURC shall promote the establishment of specialized research facilities to attract highly competent national and international researchers and students to Pokhara University.
3. Novelty and Applicability: PURC shall promote research and innovation activities demonstrating novelty and applicability with the potential to generate high-impact intellectual property.

4. Knowledge, Economy, Social prosperity and National development: PURC shall promote the generation and valorization of intellectual property for revenue generation, sustainability of higher education, social prosperity and national development.
5. Transparency, Equality, and Impartiality: All the activities of PURC shall be made transparent abiding by the PU regulations. All the research facilities and funding shall be treated equally and impartially regardless of any personal attributes of the bona fide researchers.
6. Ethics and Integrity: PURC declares a strong and perpetual commitment to internationally accepted standards of research ethics and integrity. Any researcher committing any breaches of research ethics shall be forbidden unconditionally from access to PURC research facilities including funding and resources.
7. Zero Tolerance against Plagiarism: PURC declares plagiarism a serious academic crime and, therefore, adopts and advocates for 'zero tolerance against plagiarism'. Any academic activities committing plagiarism shall be brought under disciplinary prosecution accordingly.
8. University Social Responsibility (USR): With the best acknowledgement of the contribution of the people from the local communities to establish and nurture the university to flourish well, PURC shall endeavor to share academic knowledge and intellectual benefits to the community as an integral part of the University Social Responsibility (USR).

4. Roles and Responsibilities

1. PURC shall function as an independent entity of Pokhara University at the capacity and rights equivalent to a multidisciplinary Faculty with a mandate to develop academic research and innovation programs independently as well as in collaboration with other faculties, schools, and colleges of Pokhara University as well as national and international academic and research institutions.
2. PURC shall establish, coordinate, and oversee specialized research institutes, centers, schools, laboratories, chair groups, departments, and similar units to conduct the degree and non-degree research and training programs.
3. PURC shall run research and training programs in applied courses independently as well as jointly in collaboration with reputed national and international universities and institutions to attract highly competent national and international students and researchers to Pokhara University.
4. PURC shall implement research and innovation policies, strategies, and action plans as endorsed by the Executive Council, Academic Council, Research Council, Act, Policies, and Regulations of Pokhara University as well as the Research and Innovation priorities of the Government of Nepal.

5. PURC shall seek and secure funding to establish central research facilities, recruit internationally competent human resources, and provide logistic support to promote research and innovation activities in Pokhara University independently and in collaboration with different academic institutions (Faculties, Schools, and Colleges) of Pokhara University as well as similar national and international institutions.
6. PURC shall implement strategies to foster national and international collaborations to strengthen research and innovation programs through short and long-term collaborations for the exchange of knowledge and resources.
7. PURC shall promote and oversee research and innovation activities in all academic and research institutions running within Pokhara University.
8. PURC shall organize national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, and training programs.
9. PURC shall manage and/or professional journals and publications.
10. PURC shall conduct appropriate knowledge-sharing programs for local community engagement under the scheme of University Social Responsibility (USR).

5. Vision

Become a leader in higher education, research and innovation in Nepal.

6. Mission

Transform Pokhara University from a conventional teaching university into an eminent research University.

7. Goals and Action Plans

SN	Goal	Action Plan
1.	Establishment of Central Research Facility (CRF) to provide world-class research, innovation, mentoring, and training facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish specialized thematic research chair groups, centers, and Centers of Excellence (COE). 2. Establish Central Research Laboratories (CRLs). 3. Upgrade existing general laboratories into specialized research laboratories.
2.	Provide sustained research and innovation funding to research students, research fellows, and principal investigators.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Pokhara University Research and Innovation Fund (PURIF). 2. Initiate research and innovation fellowships and discovery grants to support principal investigators and research students. 3. Provide incubation, mentoring, ideation, entrepreneurship, and start-up support to new talents.

3.	Monetization of Pokhara University's Intellectual Property.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate the benefit-sharing guidelines for Intellectual Properties (IPs) and knowledge economy. 2. Initiate IPR literacy and support programs. 3. Initiate startup funding and build a sustainable startup ecosystem. 4. Initiate establishing spin-offs to industrialize Pokhara University's IPs.
4.	Initiation of internationally recognized Higher Degree Research programs in applied research areas addressing national development agenda and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate Higher Degree Research programs at master and doctoral levels in applied research areas. 2. Reorient the existing curricula of Pokhara University accommodating a substantial weightage of the primary research component. 3. Provide equal opportunities to both national and international students to pursue higher degree research in applied areas. 4. Produce highly skilled human resource competitive to lead the future research, innovation, development, industry, and service sector globally.
5.	Recruitment of highly skilled and internationally trained human resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct capacity enhancement programs to strengthen the research competence of the Pokhara University faculties. 2. Initiate the tenure-track recruitment of young and internationally trained meritorious principal investigators and researchers.
6.	Assurance of ethics, integrity and quality in research and innovation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate Pokhara University Research and Innovation code of conduct. 2. Monitor and evaluate the ethical grounds of the research activities.
7.	Foster active partnerships with Governmental and Non-governmental sectors at the national and international levels to address the National Development Goals (NDGs) and the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish active collaborations with i) Government agencies, ii) Higher Education and Research Institutes, iii) Industries, iv) National and International Development Agencies v) Communities at the national and international level.

8. Executive Director of Research Center

The Executive Director is a fulltime and tenured chief executive of the Research Center with a mandate to oversee research and innovation activities conducted in all the academic and research

institutions of Pokhara University. The appointment and provisions of Executive Director follow Pokhara University Research Center Regulations 2059 and Pokhara University Act 2053. The fundamental responsibility of Executive Director of Research is to plan, develop, manage, and lead the Research and Innovation (R&I) in the University. Also, the Executive Director is responsible for developing and executing the R&I plans, programs, and strategies of the Center.

The Executive Council of Pokhara University appointed Dr. Namraj Dhama as the third Executive of Research Center for the four year's term on 20 August 2021. Dr. Dhama is a plant biologist and researcher. Currently, he is an Associate professor of Pharmacognosy / Medicinal Botany at the School of Health and Allied Sciences, Pokhara University, Nepal. He has 20 years teaching and research experience at Pokhara University. His research interests include exploration of nutritionally and medicinally important metabolites in crops and medicinal plants and has published over 20 research and review articles in internationally reputed professional journals. His specific research interest is exploration of nutritionally and medicinally important plant secondary metabolites and biofortification of micronutrients (e. g. carotenoids, the precursors of vitamin A) in food and feed crops.

The duties, rights and responsibilities of the executive director shall be as follows:

1. Provide leadership and manage the operations and activities of the center.
2. Formulate plan, programs and budget as per the objectives of the center.
3. Develop and revise, as needed, the vision, mission, strategy, and plans of the center.
4. Collaborate with the Faculties, Schools and Colleges to develop a comprehensive Research and Innovation strategic programs.
5. Manage and administer the center's offices and employees.
6. Conduct space planning, enhancement and continuous improvement related to the labs and other affiliated facilities.
7. Organize conferences, workshops, research and innovation fairs, events and meetings to promote research, innovation, entrepreneurship and development activities.
8. Develop and conduct necessary training in the area of research, innovation, entrepreneurship and development.
9. Build partnerships and collaboration to create strategic alliances with national and international Research and Innovation institutions.
10. Develop and manage the budget and funding.
11. Manage Center's communication channels, website and the different social media accounts and handles.
12. Identify opportunities for external fundraising, apply for funding, submit project proposals, and follow up with the funding agencies for securing sanction of projects.

13. Prepare and submit annual report to the Research Management Committee for approval.
14. Conduct other activities as delegated by Executive Council, Academic Council, and Research Management Committee.

9. PURC Activities from 2021 to 2025

The last four years (20 August 2021 – 19 August 2025) witnessed a strong commitment to mainstream the research and innovation activities, both in policies and in practices, in Pokhara University. PURC achieved multiple milestones in the last four years, particularly in terms of policy reform, institutional reform, and collaboration. The pioneer programs of PURC particularly the PURC Research Grants were continued perhaps with an extended outreach and quality benchmarking. At the same time, new initiatives, particularly establishment of Institutional Research Committees (RCs) and Research Management Cells (RMCs), were implemented to mainstream the research and innovation activities in all the academic institutions functioning under Pokhara University. Likewise, PURC started collaborating with many national and international partners to work in the areas of mutual interests extending the scope of PURC beyond Pokhara University. The seminars, workshops, symposia, and conferences organized and/or co-organized by PURC also the marked indicators of success of PURC in engagement, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration. The following sections summarizes the key activities conducted by PURC in the last four years.

10. PURC Research Grant

Pokhara University Research Center provides collaborative and faculty research grants to the faculty members of both constituent, joint constituent, and affiliated institution of Pokhara University. A summary of ongoing and completed research projects during the last four years is presented in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1: Summary of ongoing research projects funded by PURC in 2025

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date
1	Buddhi Raj Joshi	School of Engineering	GIS based Deterministic Stability Approach for Assessment of Landslide Susceptibility of Highway Slopes	1/2081/82	2025-04-14
2	Deepmala Shrestha	School of Business	An Integrated Model of Tourist Attributes and Behaviors in Destination Selection and Service Utilization for Effective Recommendations	2/2081/82	2025-04-14

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date
3	Khem Raj Joshi	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Exploring the Chemical Composition and Anti-urolithiasis Activity analysis of different varieties of Banana (core sheath, outer sheath, root bulb, Stem Water) of Nepal for Sustainable Agricultural, Industrial and Health Applications	3/2081/82	2025-04-14
4	Rishikesh Pandey	School of Development and Social Engineering	Municipal Waste Management Practices, and Challenges in an Urbanizing Nepal: A Comparative Study of Pokhara Metropolitan City, and Waling, and Devchuli Municipalities of Gandaki Province	4/2081/82	2025-04-14
5	Bishwa Nath Lamichhane	Faculty of Management Studies	English Communication Skills of English Teachers of Basic and Secondary Level Schools in Pokhara Metropolitan City	05/2081/82	2025-08-01
6	Chiranjivi Adhikari	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Towards Institutionalizing Behavioral Insights Units at Federal and Provincial Levels: An Explorative Study in Nepal	06/2081/82	2025-08-01
7	Hem Raj Pandey	School of Engineering, Pokhara University	A Mathematical Model of Dengue Dynamics in Tanahun District with Optimal Control Strategies	07/2081/82	2025-08-01
8	Man Kumari Gurung	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Formulation and evaluation of peppermint leaves, ginger and clove extract hydrogel using different polymers	08/2081/82	2025-08-01
9	Namuna Sharma	School of health and allied sciences	Assessment of Health-related Physical Fitness components in Undergraduate Physiotherapy	09/2081/82	2025-08-01

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date
			students of Pokhara University: An Observational Study		
10	Prakash Gautam	School of Engineering	Enhancing the Functional Performance of Argeli (<i>Edgeworthia gardneri</i>) Fibers: A Study on the Impact of Chemical Modifications on Water Sorption Behavior and Thermal Stability	10/2081/82	2025-08-01
11	Ramkrishna Chapagain	School of Business	Exploring the link between Green Manufacturing, Firm Competitiveness, Firm Reputation, Top Management Support, and Firm Sustainable Performance: A Mediated-Moderated Approach	11/2081/82	2025-08-01
12	Rojana Dhakal	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Cervical Cancer Screening Intention and Uptake through the Lens of the COM-B Model: A Cross-Sectional Study Among Married Women in Pokhara Metropolitan	12/2081/82	2025-08-01
13	Santosh Khanal	School of Engineering	Investigation of Microplastic Contamination in PET-Packaged Commercially sold soft drinks in Nepal	13/2081/82	2025-08-01
14	Shila Gurung	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Formulation and Evaluation of Hair Conditioner containing Nepalese Tea	14/2081/82	2025-08-01
15	Narayan Sapkota	Everest Engineering College	Advancing Landslide Early Warning Systems Under SDG 11 Explainable AI for Susceptibility Mapping and Physics-Based Runout Modeling	15/2081/82	2025-08-01
16	Sarojini Sharma	BP Koirala Memorial	Knowledge, Attitude, Practice of FCHVs regarding Cervical Cancer	16/2081/82	2025-08-01

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date
		Cancer Hospital Nursing College	Screening Uptake in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan		
17	Yam Krishna Poudel	Nepal Engineering College	Evaluation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Battery Recycling Strategies, their Challenges and Potential Improvements in Nepal	17/2081/82	2025-08-01
18	Yogendra Adhikari	Apex College	The Relationship Between Pro-Environment Behavior and Self-wellbeing: A Survey of IT Students in Nepal	18/2081/82	2025-08-01
19	Amar Nagila	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Micronutrients and Oxidative Stress in Dengue Virus Infected Children: A Case Study of Pokhara Nepal	1/2080/81	2024-06-01

Table 2: Summary of PURC funded research projects completed from 20 Aug 2021 to 19 Aug 2025

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
1	Binaya Kumar Mishra	School of Engineering	Downscaling and Assessing Precipitation Projections in Gandaki Province based on Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP) Scenarios	2/2080/81	2024-06-01	2025-07-14
2	Deepesh Ranabhat	School of Business	Effect of Financial Inclusion on Sustainable Tourism Development: Evidence from Kaski District, Nepal	3/2080/81	2024-06-01	2025-07-14
3	Om Prakash Giri	School of Engineering	Assessing the Factors Contributing to Road Traffic Accidents from	4/2080/81	2024-06-01	2025-08-17

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
			the Perspective of Bus Drivers			
4	Megh Raj Upadhyay	National Academy of Science and Technology	Agricultural credit and its impact on Agriculture productivity: a case study of Kailali district	5/2080/81	2024-06-01	2025-08-17
5	Damaru Prasad Paneru	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Healthcare Waste Management in Hospitals: An Assessment of the Situation, Practices, Challenges, and Roadmap for the Future in Kaski, Nepal	13/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
6	Deepak Ojha	School of Business	Perceived service quality and its impact on students' satisfaction: a case study of constituent colleges of Pokhara University	15/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
7	Deepesh Prakash Guragain	Nepal Engineering College	Design and Development of Mobile application for Early Detection and Identification of Oyster Mushroom Disease with Remedy Recommender	11/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
8	Hari Prasad Kaphle	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Spatial and Weather Factors Analysis of Dengue Fever in Gandaki Province, Nepal	8/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
9	Jenny Ojha	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Anxiety and Depression among Adolescent Students of Pokhara, Nepal: Prevalence and Associated Factors	9/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
10	Madhav Prasad Koirala	School of Engineering	Assessment of Construction Safety Risk Management in Hydropower Projects in Gandaki Province	4/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
11	Nim Bahadur Dangi	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Green Analytical Approach for the Determination of Calcium in Pharmaceutical Products Using Turmeric Powder	10/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
12	Nirmala Neupane	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Status of Job Satisfaction among Nursing Professionals Working in selected Hospitals of Gandaki Province	5/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
13	Pooja Bhandari	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Respectful Maternity Care and Associated Factors Among Women Who Attended Delivery Services in Tertiary Hospital in Pokhara	7/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
14	Ram Bahadur Khadka	Crimson College of Technology	Bacterial Diversity and Antibiotic Susceptibility Profile of the Isolates from	2/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
			Public Vehicles in Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, Rupandehi, Nepal			
15	Sachin Shrestha	Nepal Engineering College	ICT based social story teaching aid for children with autism of Nepal	12/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
16	Santosh Kumar Gupta	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Microbiological assessment of Surgical Face Masks used by Health Care Workers in West Regional Hospital, Pokhara	6/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
17	Sujan Nepal	Nepal Engineering College	Quantifying Aerosol Optical Depth Emission from Road Construction Activity in Kathmandu Valley	14/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
18	Tilak Bhusal	Tilottama Campus	Interpretational Variations of Nepali Poems Translated to English	1/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
19	Yog Raj Lamichhane	School of Business	Examining Rate and Pattern of Author Self-Citation in the Journals from Tribhuvan University, Nepal	3/2079/080	2023-07-16	2025-07-14
20	Ananta Adhikari	School of Engineering	Optimal placement of facts controllers in power system network	14/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-18	2022-04-08
21	Arjun Kumar Thapa	School of Development and Social Engineering	Health System Performance in Gandaki province Nepal	5/075/76	2019-08-18	2022-04-26

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
22	Ashish Thapa	School of Business	Impact of organizational culture on employee performance	8/074/75 (FRG CC)	2019-08-18	2022-01-14
23	Bibek Ropakheti	Cosmos College	Development of low power multichannel intelligent wireless device for health monitoring of metallic structures	4/074/75 (FRG AC)	2018-03-28	2022-01-14
24	Bipin Chapagain	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Phenotypic Detection of Metallo-Beta-lactamase in Acinetobacter species Isolated from Clinical Samples.	4/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-20	2022-01-14
25	Damaru Parsad Paneru	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Health problems of Nepalese migrant workers and their access to healthcare services in middle east countries: A cross-sectional study	115/073/74 (FRG CC)	2017-06-06	2022-01-14
26	Dipendra Kumar Yadav	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Risk Factors Associated with Stillbirth: A Case Control Study in Madhesh Province, Nepal	1/2075/76 (CRG CA)	2019-08-18	2022-04-13
27	Ghanashyam Tiwari	School of Business	Knowledge towards residential rental tax and compliance behavior of property owner in Pokhara	02/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-19	2022-01-14

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
			Lekhnath Metropolitan city			
28	Hemchandra Chaulagain	School of Engineering	Critical review on status of implementation of Nepal Building Code in Pokhara metropolitan city after 2015 Gorkha earthquake	108/073/74 (FRG CC)	2017-06-13	2022-04-08
29	Jenny Ojha	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Job Stress: Prevalence and Associated Factors among Working Women in Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan	10/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-19	2022-01-14
30	Khem Raj Joshi	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Determination of heavy metals in selected cosmetic products sold in Nepal	1/074/75 (CRG)	2018-03-30	2022-01-14
31	Nand Ram Gahatraj	School of Health and Allied Sciences	Blood Pressure Patterns and risk factors of hypertension among adult people of Kaski Nepal: A comparative Study	2/075/76 (FRG CC)	2019-08-18	2022-04-13
32	Om Parakash Giri	School of Engineering	Assessment of factors causing delays of construction projects in Kaski district of Nepal	3/075/76 (FRG CC)	2019-08-18	2022-04-13
33	Prakash Bahadur Adhikari	School of Engineering	Characterisation of soil in Armala Kaski: a descriptive study of sinkhole	11/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-20	2022-04-13

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
34	Rabindra Adhikari	Cosmos College	Evaluation of Prevalent Retrofitting Techniques in School Building of Nepal.	02/074/75 (FRG AC)	2018-03-22	2022-04-08
35	Rajesh Kumar Thagurathi	School of Engineering	Determinants of Performance in Mathematics of Secondary Level Student's in Kaski, Nepal	12/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-18	2022-04-13
36	Rajib Pokhrel	School of Engineering	Numerical simulations on air pollution emission from the construction site and its dispersion in the Pokhara valley	01/074/75 (FRG AC)	2018-03-28	2022-01-14
37	Ram Prasad Aryal	School of Development and Social Engineering	Family Separation and Living Arrangement at Elderly Home in Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan City, Nepal	01/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-18	2022-01-14
38	Ramji Prasad Adhikari	School of Development and Social Engineering	Elderly People, Living Arrangement and Life Satisfaction: A Comparative Study Between Family Set up and Elderly Care Home	09/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-19	2022-01-14
39	Rammani Adhikari	School of Engineering	Developing a smart Campus A Basic guideline concept for building smart city	15/074/75 (FRG CC)	2018-03-21	2022-01-14

SN	Principal Investigator	Host Institution	Research Title	Grant Number	Starting Date	Completion Date
40	Subash Poudel	Pokhara College of Management	Factors Influencing to the Academic Performance of Management Students in Pokhara University	03/074/75 (FRG AC)	2018-04-14	2022-01-14
41	Suresh Baral	School of Engineering	Development of Simulation models for solar based organic Rankine cycle system for electrical power generation in Nepal	4/2075/76 (FRG CC)	2019-08-18	2022-04-13
42	Tek Bahadur Chhetry	School of Engineering	Developing Professional Expertise in Teaching Personnels: A Survey on Expectation of Teachers in Training Module/Course at Pokhara University	110/073/74 (FRG CC)	2017-06-06	2022-01-14
43	Yagya Nath Rimal	School of Engineering	Computer literacy and its application among faculty members of Pokhara University	107/073/74 (FRG CC)	2017-06-05	2022-04-08

11. Research Management Cell

Research Management Cell (RMC) oversees the research and innovation activities in the academic institutions running under the Pokhara University. The RMCs were installed in all 65 academic institutions of Pokhara University. PURC coordinates every academic institution (constituent, joint constituent, and affiliated) via RMCs.

12. Institutional Review Committee for Health Research

Institutional Review Committee (IRC) for health research is a fully functional and dedicated committee established according to the Institutional Review Committee guidelines of National Health Research Council (NHRC). The structure, formation, processes, operation, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) of PU IRC are explicitly guided by the NHRC guidelines, particularly the National Ethical Guidelines for Health Research in Nepal and Guidelines for Institutional Review Committees for Health Research in Nepal. The key objective of IRC is to protect the rights

and ensure welfare of human participants involved in the health research conducted in Pokhara University, both constituent and affiliated institutions.

13. PURC Seminar Series

PURC started a seminar series to invite experts from the different area and discuss contemporary issues. A total of 31 presentations were delivered in 19 episodes of seminar series in the last four years. We received speakers from eight different countries including a special seminar delivered by the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J Roberts on 23 Feb 2024. A summary of presentations is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of presentations delivered in the different episodes of PRC Seminar Series

PN	Ep	Date (AD)	Title	Speaker	Designation	Address	Country
1	1	2021-10-31	Research and Innovation in Higher Education- an Elusive but Critical Component in Post-COVID Era	Dr. Tara Sigdel	Associate Professor of Surgery	University of California San Francisco	USA
2	2	2021-12-10	Equality and Non-Discrimination Core of Sustainable Development Goals	Binda Magar	GESI Adviser	UNDP Nepal	Nepal
3	3	2022-04-28	Business Management Education and its Alignment with the Contemporary Societal Needs	Dr. Ajay Ghimire	Educator and Entrepreneur	Ace Institute of Management, Kathmandu	Nepal
4	3	2022-04-28	Building Higher Educational Infrastructure for a Democratic Nepal: A Proposal	Dr. Rabindra Bhandari	Professor of Economics	Westminster College, Fulton, MO	USA
5	3	2022-04-28	Contemporary Challenges of Nepalese Economy	Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal	Former Governor	Nepal Rastra Bank	Nepal
6	4	2022-05-30	Value of Thought in Science and Technology	Prof. Dr. Rameshwar Adhikari	Professor of Chemistry	Central Department of Chemistry,	Nepal

Tenure Completion Report, Namraj Dhami, PhD
Executive Director (20.08.2021 - 19.08.2025), Pokhara University Research Center (PURC)

						Tribhuvan University	
7	5	2022-06-17	From Scientist to Entrepreneur - my journey to become a Scientific Illustrator	Dr. Daria Chrobok	Chief Executive Officer	DC SciArt, Umea	Sweden
8	6	2022-07-01	Climate Change: Causes, Impacts and Economic Instruments for Mitigation	Dr. Govinda R Timilsina	Sr. Research Economist	Development Research Group, World Bank	USA
9	7	2022-09-17	Nanomedicines in Pharmacy	Prof. Dr. Purusottam Basnet	Former Dean	Faculty of Science and Technology, Pokhara University	Nepal
10	8	2023-01-05	Value Education and Youth for Nation	Ramesh Kandel	Activist	PVP Nepal	Nepal
11	8	2023-01-05	Professional Ethics of Health Professionals	Dr. Kalu Sharma Subedi	Senior Consultant Radiologist	Pokhara	Nepal
12	9	2023-03-02	Objective and Hypotheses formulation	Prof. Kriti Dang-Longani	Professor	Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Pune, India	India
13	10	2023-08-30	Research and Education Network (REN) Connectivity in Nepal	Rajan Parajuli, PhD	Executive Director	Nepal Research and Education Network	Nepal
14	11	2023-09-22	Role of Research and Education Networks in Enabling Research Ecosystem in Universities	Dr. Bhushan Raj Shrestha	Founding Chair	Nepal Research and Education Network (NREN)	Nepal
15	12	2023-12-03	Research and Education Network: Supporting Research Ecosystem in Nepal	Rajan Parajuli, PhD	Executive Director	Nepal Research and Education Network	Nepal
16	SP	2024-02-23	Interaction with the Nobel Laureate	Sir Richard J Roberts	Nobel Laureate	New England Biolabs	UK

17	13	2024-03-07	The High Himalayas Archaeological Project (HHARP) in Upper Mustang, 2010-2023	Mark Aldenderfer	Professor	University of California, USA	USA
18	13	2024-03-07	Archaeology of the invisible: the biomolecular revolution in archaeology	Christina Warinner	Professor	Harvard University, USA	USA
19	13	2024-03-07	Unravelling the Genetic History of Tibetan and Tibeto-Burman Speaking Populations	Ju Hyeon Lee	Postdoctoral fellow	Seoul National University, South Korea	South Korea
20	13	2024-03-07	Ancient DNA evidence for Plasmodium falciparum malaria at the high-altitude site of Chokhopani in Upper Mustang, Nepal	Megan Michel	Postdoctoral fellow	Harvard University, Boston, USA	USA
21	13	2024-03-07	Ancient DNA insights into 7th century chaang brewing from Samdzong, Upper Mustang, Nepal	Maxime Borry,	Postdoctoral fellow	Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany	Germany
22	14	2024-05-24	Abductive Research Methods in Management	Prof. Dr. Barbara Igel	Former Dean	Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand	Thailand
23	15	2024-06-21	Accelerated molecular genetics in Pseudomonas aeruginosa using DNA oligonucleotides	Sundar Pandey, Ph.D.	Postdoctoral fellow	UT Southwestern Medical center (UTSW), Dallas, USA	USA
24	16	2024-09-16	Research and utilization of wild buckwheat resources	Prof. Meiliang Zhou	Professor	Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China	China

			in the Himalayan region				
25	17	2025-02-13	Role of communities in HIV response	Dr. Damaru Paneru	Associate Professor	Pokhara University School of Health Sciences	Nepal
26	17	2025-02-13	STI and its Prevention promoting use of condom	Dr. Madan Khadka	Assistant Professor	Pokhara University Teaching Hospital	Nepal
27	17	2025-02-13	Paediatric HIV and its Update	Dr. Ram Chandra Bastola	Professor	Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences	Nepal
28	17	2025-02-13	Introduction to HIV and its Pathogenesis	Dr. Binita Koirala Sharma	Assistant Professor	Prithvi Narayan Campus	Nepal
29	17	2025-02-13	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV: A success	Dr. Chum Maya Pun	Associate Professor	Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences	Nepal
30	17	2025-02-13	National Strategies and Programs in HIV	Mr. Laxman Basaula	TB-HIV Focal Person	Provincial Public Health Office	Nepal
31	17	2025-02-13	Epidemiology of HIV and its Trends	Dr. Roshan Dhakal	Health Administrator	Provincial Health Directorate	Nepal
32	17	2025-02-13	Roles of organizations in providing HIV services	Mr. Divya Raj Joshi	Country Program Manager	AHF, Nepal	Nepal
33	18	2025-05-15	Role of Research and Education Networks (RENs) in strengthening research ecosystems in universities	Rajan Parajuli, PhD	Executive Director	Nepal Research and Education Network	Nepal

An interaction seminar with the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J Roberts was an unforgettable moment of Pokhara University as the day witnessed the very first visit of the Nobel Laureate in its premises ever in the 2.5 decades history of the University (Figure 1). The seminar was over 80 participants including PU authorities, Professors, Students, and Staff. During the interaction and

on the visitor note, Sir Richard emphasized adopting policies to enable students to learn and come back to improve Nepal (Figure 2).



Figure 1: A picture taken after an interaction seminar with the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J Roberts (23 February 2024)

POKHARA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER
POKHARA UNIVERSITY

VISITOR NOTE

You have excellent students.
Listen to them and come up
with policies that will both
enable and make them want to
come back and improve Nepal.

Signature: R.J. Roberts
Name: RICHARD J. ROBERTS
Designation: _____
Institution: NEB
Date: 23rd Feb. 2025

Figure 2: Visitor note of the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J Roberts

14. Policy Reform

Pokhara University Research Center has been functioning according to the Pokhara University Act 2053 and its complementary regulations including the Research Center Regulations 2059. The allocation of research fund to the faculty members is one of the key tasks of PURC and selection of proposals for the research grant is guided by the PURC Research Grant Procedures. Although Research Grant procedures were in place, the provisions included in the producers were sometimes incomplete, ambiguous, and redundant. Therefore, the pre-existing Research Grant Procedures were partially amended sorting the critical issues bringing PURC Research Grant Procedures 2080 in practice. In addition, PURC formulated other necessary policies to ease the research and innovation activities in the University. However, many essential policies and procedures remained unapproved despite a series of discussions. A list of revised and newly formulated policies is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of revised and newly formulated policies related to PURC

SN	Name	Scope	Status	Remarks
1	PURC Research Grant Procedures 2080	Revised	Implemented	Need to revise
2	Research Management Cell Guidelines 2024	Newly formed	Implemented	Active
3	Student Research Support Program Guidelines 2023	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting EC approval
4	Student Internship Program Guidelines 2023	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting EC approval
5	Visiting Professor Management Guidelines 2023	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting EC approval
6	Intellectual Writing Regulation Procedure 2024	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting AC/EC approval
7	Research and Innovation Promotion Policy 2025	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting RMC/AC/EC approval
8	Research and Innovation Promotion Strategy 2025	Newly formed	Not implemented	Waiting RMC/AC/EC approval
9	Research and Innovation Promotion Guidelines 2025	Revised / reformed	Not implemented	Waiting RMC/AC/EC approval

Legend: EC: Executive Council, AC: Academic Council, RMC: Research Management Committee

15. Research Resource Facilitation

PURC has been instrumental in collaborating with national and international institutions to get access to the research supporting resources.

- i. **Zoom license:** PURC has collaborated with Nepal Research and Education Network (NREN) for sharing research support resources. NREN has provided two zoom licenses for free of cost for the purpose of PURC. Both the licenses have been extensively used by PURC, Central office, PU Exam, and different faculties, centers, and schools of Pokhara University to conduct meetings and online classes, particularly Faculty of Science and Technology, Curriculum Development Center, and School of Business. Hundreds of meetings have already been hosted by using those Zoom licenses.
- ii. **Plagiarism Checking (iThenticate):** PURC collaborated with University Grants Commission (UGC Nepal) and received one user ID of iThenticate free of cost which has been extensively used by PURC and Central Library (PUCL) for plagiarism checking. PURC has been providing plagiarism checking service to PURC funded research grant recipients, PU journals (Journal of Health and Allied Sciences, and Journal of Business and Management operated by the School of Health and Allied Sciences and School of Business respectively) and faculty members free of cost. Neary 950 documents have already been checked for plagiarism by using the iThenticate user ID provided by the UGC, of which nearly 750 docs have been checked by the PUCL, which includes the paid service.

16. Workshops, Symposia, and Conferences

PURC actively involved in organizing workshop, symposia, and conferences engaging a large number of experts, professors, researchers, students, and relevant stakeholders in the last four years. The major events organized and/or co-organized by PURC are listed in Table 5 (Figure 3-8).

Table 5: Summary of major workshops, symposia, and conferences conducted in the last four years

SN	Name	Date	Category	Participant	Status
1.	Streamlining Academic Research and Innovation in Pokhara University	5-7 Sep 2022	Workshop	70	PURC, Figure 4
2.	Training Workshop on Ethics in Health Research	31 Mar 2024	Workshop	53	PURC& NHRC
3.	Contextualizing the Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability	13 Sep 2024	Symposium	79	PURC & UNDP Nepal, Figure 5
4.	Symposium on Know More and Say No More: Safeguarding Lives from Sexually Transmitted Diseases	13 Feb 2025	Symposium	70	PURC & AHF Nepal, Figure 6

5.	4 th Conference on Recent Trends in Science, Technology, and Innovation (RTSTI-2025)	19-21 Mar 2025	Conference	370	PURC, Figure 3
6.	Training Workshop on Ethics in Health Research and Standard Operating Procedures	24 Jun 2025	Workshop	30	PURC & NHRC, Figure 7
7.	Smart Solutions, Local Impact: Technology for Reducing Socio-Economic Inequality	31 Jul 2025	Workshop	81	PURC & UNDP Nepal, Figure 8

The most notable event was the RTSTI-2025, the 4th episode of the conference on Recent Trends in Science, Technology, and Innovation, which was held from 19-21 March 2025. RTSTI-2025 witnessed a scientific gathering of over 370 participants along with 179 presentations from 10 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Croatia, Egypt, India, Nepal, Netherlands, Serbia, South Korea, and USA (Figure 3). There were 3 keynote sessions, 17 technical sessions, 3 special workshops, and 2 poster sessions hosted seven keynote talks, 13 plenary talks, 12 invited talks, 111 oral presentations, and 36 posters in the conference. Also, the conference was supported directly and indirectly by 34 different institutions from across the country standing together to promote Science, Technology, and Innovation. The total expenditure of the RTSTI-2025 was NRs. 1,584,860.72, of which NRs. 1,527,350.00 was covered by the organizing partners and sponsors. Pokhara University's direct financial contribution to the RTSTI-2025 conference was NRs. 57,510.72 only.





Figure 3: Poster (above) and group (below) photograph of RTSTI-2025 (19-21 March 2025)



Figure 4: Workshop on “Streamlining Academic Research and Innovation in Pokhara University (SARIPU) (5-7 September 2022)



Figure 5: Symposium on “Contextualizing the Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability” (13 September 2024)



Figure 6: Symposium on Know More and Say No More: Safeguarding Lives from Sexually Transmitted Diseases (February 13, 2025)



Figure 7: Training Workshop on Ethics in Health Research and Standard Operating Procedures (24 June 2025)



Figure 8: Workshop on “Smart Solutions, Local Impact: Technology for Reducing Socio-Economic Inequality” (31 July 2025)

17. Involvement of Interns

PURC initiated student internship program involving students of the constituent schools of Pokhara University to work as an intern at PURC. This program was initiated to provide real-time learning opportunities to work in the projects and activities at PURC. In the year 2024, PURC recruited six MBA students from the school of Business (Table 6).

Table 6: List of intern students worked at PURC

SN	Name of Student	Level	Institution	Duration
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1	Suwarna Pratap Shahi	MBA	School of Business	18/01/2024 to 02 /06/2024
2	Sandesh Khadka Chhetri	MBA	School of Business	18/01/2024 to 20/05/2024
3	Ganesh Neupane	MBA	School of Business	18 /01/2024 to 24/05/2024
4	Samridhi Sherchan	MBA	School of Business	15/02/2024 to 09/07/2024
5	Mamata Lamichhane	MBA	School of Business	24/04/2024 to 17/09/2024
6	Subigya Thapa	MBA	School of Business	24/04/2024 to 17/09/2024

18. National and International Collaboration

PURC actively engaged in various national and international collaborative projects and initiatives in the last four years extending PURC's professional network up to government sector, developmental partners, NGOs, and INGOs. A summary of MOUs signed at the level of PURC is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: List of institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding with PURC

SN	Institution	Country	Date
1	National Young Academy of Nepal (NaYAN), Kathmandu	Nepal	2022-04-22
2	Gandaki Province Academy of Science and Technology (GPAST), Pokhara	Nepal	2023-06-07
3	Anka Analytica Melbourne	Australia	2023-08-07
4	Nepal Technology Innovation Center (NTIC), Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel	Nepal	2023-11-10
5	Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing	China	2024-09-16

The UNDP Nepal

The window of collaboration was opened with signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pokhara University and UNDP Nepal on 10 Dec 2021 (Figure 9). The MOU was focused on the common areas of interest particularly for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Collaborate to establish central research facility (the global standard advanced research laboratories) and Center of excellence for higher degree research and education related to SDGs.
2. Collaborate to initiate professional Master and Doctoral level programs addressing SDGs targets.
3. Facilitate exchange of professors, administration staffs and students for capacity enhancement trainings/workshops.
4. Support research and innovation activities through research grants and fellowships to professors, researchers, and students with particular focus on Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

5. Facilitate partnership with national and international academia, research, and humanitarian agencies to work together for achievement of SDGS in Nepal.
6. Collaborate to promote gender equality, diversity and prevent all forms of discrimination.

Based on the strong grounds of MOU, PURC successfully completed four projects with the UNDP Nepal from Aug 2021 to Aug 2025.

1. 2021: Assessment of Socio-economic Vulnerability of Marginalized and Excluded Women in Waling, Putalibazar and Beni Municipality of Gandaki Province
2. 2022: Impact Assessment of The Emergency and Humanitarian Cash-Based Intervention Support to Marginalized and Excluded Women in Sudurpaschim Province, Madhesh Province and Gandaki Province of Nepal
3. 2023: Symposium on Contextualizing Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Nepal
4. 2025: Workshop on Smart Solutions, Local Impact: Technology for Reducing Socio-Economic Inequality



Figure 9: Banner of MOU signing ceremony between PU and UNDP Nepal

The ERASMUS+

PURC was actively involved in ERASMUS+ funded international projects during the last four years which were notable opportunities for institutional, personal, and professional capacity building. The PURC team was engaged in CBHE projects namely i) Cybersecurity for All (CS4ALL) and ii) Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Academia (MAGENDA). PURC also

facilitated international staff mobilities, in collaboration with International Relation Center, under ERASMUS+ program of European Commission. As a part of project activities, PURC hosted international consortium meeting of CS4ALL (Figure 10) and MAGENDA (Figure 11) projects bringing international participants to Pokhara University for knowledge and cultural exchange among the participants from the consortium partners. Besides, PURC and CS4ALL student club of Pokhara University organized several awareness seminars on digital literacy and cybersecurity for students, teachers, staff, and general public (Figure 12 and 13)



Figure 10: A picture taken at the Kickoff meeting of CS4ALL (21-24 November 2023)



Figure 11: A picture taken at the Kickoff meeting of MAGENDA (16-17 March 2025)



Figure 12: Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar (8 June 2025)



Figure 13: Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar (28 May 2025)

19. Annual Budget of PURC

The annual budget of PURC remains merged in the budget of the Central office of Pokhara University. All the administrative and developmental activities are regulated from the central budget. However, the budget amount entitled to “Research” always remains nominal to embark the initiatives strengthening capabilities of the institution, students, researchers, and professors. The annual budget requested and entitled to research is summarized in Table 8 and, as an example, the details of the budget requested for the current fiscal year (FY 2082/83) is in Table 9.

Table 8: Annual budget allocated to PURC in the last five fiscal years

SN	Fiscal Year	Proposed by PURC (NPR)	Sanctioned by PU (NPR)	Remarks
1	2078/79	-	3,500,000.00	
2	2079/80	160,400,000.00	7,000,000.00	
3	2080/81	112,100,000.00	18,000,000.00	
4	2081/82	86,250,000.00	15,000,000.00	
5	2082/83	211,900,000.00	8,600,000.00	

Table 9: Annual budget proposed for the Research Center (2082/83)

SN	Activity	Budget (NRs)	Remarks
A	Research Infrastructure Development		
1	Establishment of Pokhara University Research and Innovation Endowment Fund	100,000,000.00	Endowment Seed money (New initiation)
2	Revision and Formulation of Pokhara University Research and Innovation Policy, Strategy, Guidelines, Regulations, and Working procedures	500,000.00	Drafting, Expert consultation, and Workshops
3	Establishment of Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Incubation Facility	10,000,000.00	New initiation
4	Establishment of Central Research Facility for Genome Research and Biological Innovation	50,000,000.00	New initiation
5	Establishment of Central Research Facility for Digital Technology and Cybersecurity	5,000,000.00	Partially Supported by ERASMUS+
6	Research Software (Plagiarism / Research / Statistical / LMS) and Resources	5,000,000.00	New initiation
	Section Total (A)	170,500,000.00	
B	Research Capacity Building and Collaboration		
7	PURC Research Grants (PU Priority Area Research) (Faculty and Student)	10,000,000.00	Regular activity
8	Constituent Institution Research Management Cell Support	10,000,000.00	All constituent institutions
9	Curriculum Development and Launching Advanced Degree Programs	5,000,000.00	UGC NEHEP Support
10	Summer & Winter School Program in Advanced Research Methods and Contemporary Issues	1,000,000.00	New initiation

11	Research Skill Training and Professional Boot Camps (faculty/staff/students)	1,000,000.00	New initiation
12	PURC Seminar	200,000.00	Regular activity
13	Grant Writing and Collaboration	500,000.00	New initiation
14	Community Outreach Program	500,000.00	New initiation
15	Alumni Outreach Program	1,000,000.00	New initiation
16	International Conference	1,000,000.00	Regular activity
	Section Total (B)	30,200,000.00	
C	Human Resource and Office Management		
17	Staff/Experts/Reviewers/Principal investigator / Research fellow / Research assistant / Intern / Lab manager & technician / Admin / Finance / Assistant	5,000,000.00	Need to restructure PURC as an independent institution
18	PURC and IRC office setup, furniture, computers & logistics	1,200,000.00	New initiation
19	PURC Transportation (Vehicle) Facility	5,000,000.00	New initiation (EV)
	Section Total (C)	11,200,000.00	
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	211,900,000.00	

20. Acquisition of External Funds

Pokhara University allocates annual funds of PURC annually which is primarily allocated for the distribution of research grants to the faculty members working in the different schools and colleges including constituent, joint-constituent, and affiliated) of Pokhara University. However, PURC is allowed to seek funding to conduct specific activities including research projects, workshops, and conferences. The fund acquired by PURC except the regular annual funds during the last four is summarized in Table 10.

Table 10: Acquisition of external funds by PURC

SN	Year	Source	Description	Amount	Remarks
1	2021	UNDP Nepal	Assessment of socio-economic vulnerability of marginalized and excluded women in waling, Putalibazar and Beni municipality of Gandaki province	2,651,995.00	
2	2022	ERASMUS+	Cybersecurity for All (CS4ALL)	4,578,716.00	First instalment (50%) of Euro 64767.00
3	2022	UNDP Nepal	impact assessment study of the emergency and humanitarian	2,576,750.00	

			cash-based intervention support to marginalized and excluded women in project districts of Sudurpaschim Province, Madhesh Province and Gandaki Province		
4	2024	UNDP Nepal	Contextualizing Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Nepal	1,328,000.00	
5	2024	ERASMUS+	Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Academia (MAGENDA)	78,914,253.96	First instalment (70%) of Euro 799,999.00
6	2024	UGC Nepal	Research and Innovation Promotion Fund	5,000,000.00	
7	2025	UNDP Nepal	Smart Solutions, Local Impact Technology for Reducing Socio-Economic Inequality	1,311,500.00	
			Total	96,361,214.96	

21. PURC Meetings

PURC coordinates Research Management Committee (RMC) and Research Evaluation Committee (REC) meetings with the varying roles and responsibilities. Table 11 shows a summary of meetings of the different committees.

Table 11: Number of meetings held at PURC from 20 August 2021 to 19 August 2025

SN	Name of Committee	Number of Meetings	Remarks
1	Research Management Committee	22	Chaired by Vice Chancellor
2	Research Evaluation Committee	102	Chaired by Executive Director of PURC

22. Digitalization of PURC Activities

PURC has started using digital tools and techniques for the resource management and document archiving to reduce paper work ease the workflow. The majority of PURC grant related activities have been conducted by using the free resources including Google Drive (Figure 14) and One drive (Figure 15).

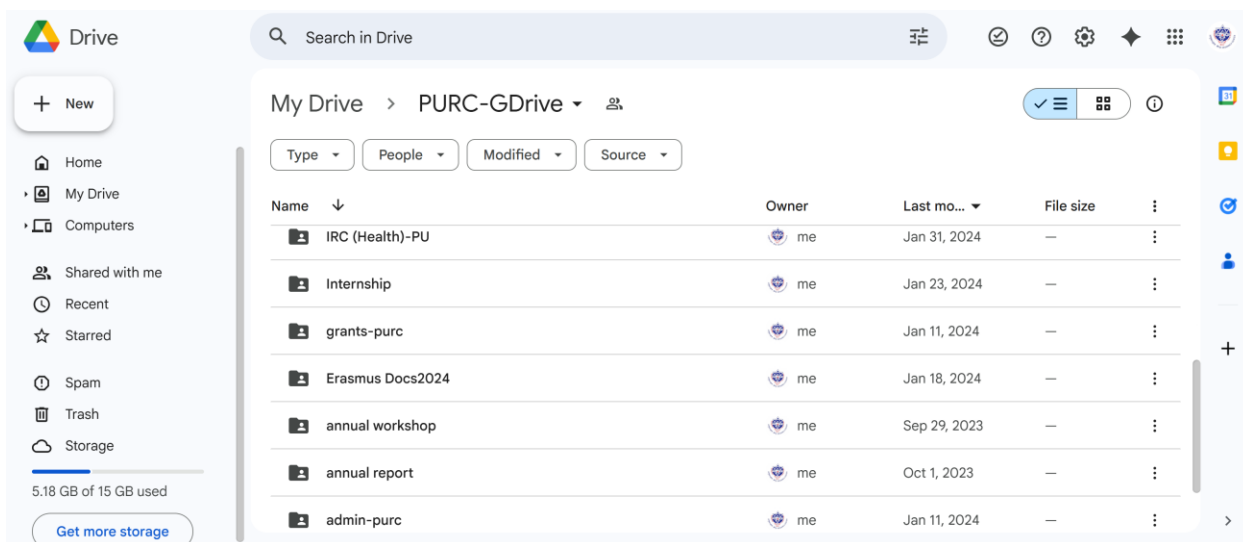


Figure 14: A snapshot of PURC Google drive showing the active data storage folders

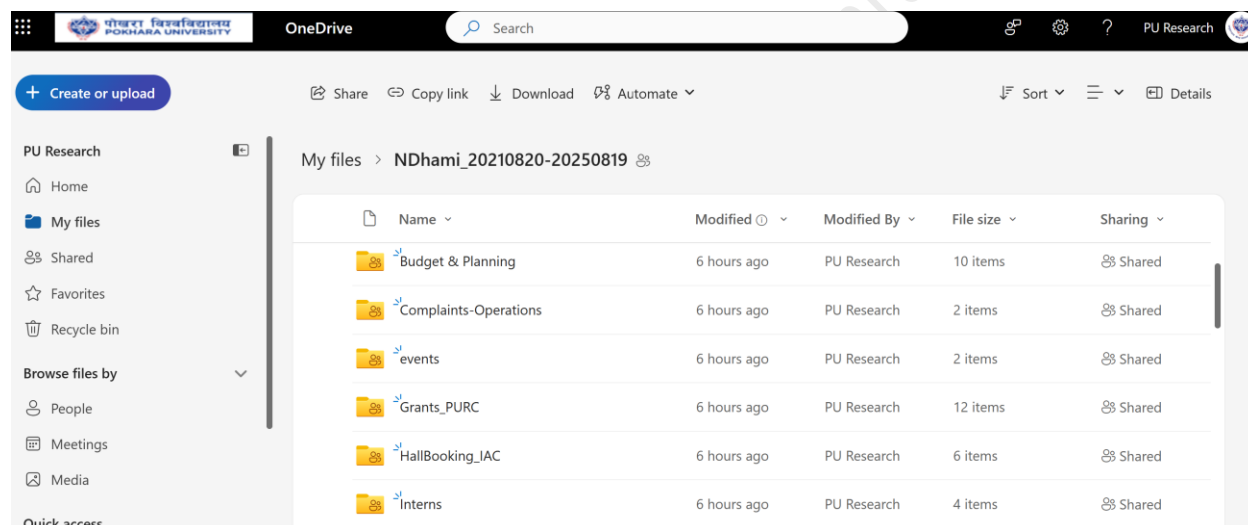


Figure 15: A snapshot of PURC One Drive showing the active data storage folders

23. The Bottlenecks

- i. Lack of research promotion policy
- ii. Lack of research based academic programs
- iii. Lack of independence of Research Center
- iv. Lack of research facilities
- v. Lack of research funding
- vi. Lack of incentives to researchers
- vii. Sluggishness, incompetence, and deliberate delays in decision making and implementation

24. Way Forward

- i. Pokhara University should prioritize the development of PURC as a center of excellence in research and innovation with the fully equipped specialized laboratories and resources.

- ii. Pokhara University should develop and execute Research and Innovation Strategic Plan with short- and long-term milestones e.g. 10-, 20-, and 50-year strategic plan to promote research and innovation promotion complying with the designated goals and action plans.
- iii. Pokhara University should integrate its academic research with PURC and launch research based academic programs in contemporary areas.
- iv. PURC should develop state-of-the-art central research facility to facilitate the advanced research by the researchers, students, and faculty members of the entire university, including constituent, joint-constituent, and affiliated institutions, and should attract researchers from other national and international institutions.
- v. PURC should initiate Research and Innovation Endowment Fund to ensure the perpetual funding to support research and innovation in Pokhara University.
- vi. Pokhara University provide appropriate research and innovation (R&I) environment including adequate incentives to researchers that are involved in cutting-edge and impactful applied research and innovation activities so that the highly skilled researchers and professors can opt to join, stay, and innovate in Pokhara University.
- vii. Pokhara University should immediately act on digitalization of its resources and services to provide research enriched contemporary and applied higher education to walk along with the rest of the world.