

**RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE POLICY****1. Policy Statement**

Shinawatra University (SIU) upholds the principle of research independence, ensuring that all academic and scientific research conducted by faculty, researchers, and students remains free from undue influence, bias, or constraints imposed by external or internal entities. This policy guarantees that researchers can freely pursue inquiries, analyze findings, and report results in alignment with academic integrity, ethical standards, and global best practices.

**2. Objectives**

This policy is established to:

- 2.1 Ensure academic freedom for researchers in choosing, conducting, and publishing their studies.
- 2.2 Safeguard research findings from political, commercial, or religious interference.
- 2.3 Encourage transparency in funding, collaborations, and external sponsorships.
- 2.4 Support ethical research conduct and compliance with international research standards.
- 2.5 Protect researchers from pressures that may compromise their academic integrity.

**3. Scope**

This policy applies to:

- 3.1 Faculty members, research fellows, and postdoctoral researchers at SIU.
- 3.2 Undergraduate and graduate students engaged in university-affiliated research.
- 3.3 Research institutes, departments, and affiliated research centers under SIU.
- 3.4 Collaborative research projects involving national and international partners.

**4. Key Principles****4.1 Freedom to Choose Research Topics**

4.1.1 Researchers have full autonomy to define research questions, methodologies, and objectives without interference from political entities, funding agencies, or university administration.

4.1.2 Research proposals shall undergo ethical review but will not be restricted based on ideological, political, or commercial considerations.

**4.2 Freedom in Conducting Research**

4.2.1 Faculty and students may access, analyze, and interpret data without manipulation or external coercion.

4.2.2 SIU ensures access to global research databases, archives, and publications to foster a robust academic environment.

**4.3 Freedom to Publish and Disseminate Findings**

4.3.1 Researchers are free to publish results, whether favorable or unfavorable to sponsors or stakeholders.

4.3.2 SIU prohibits censorship or suppression of research outcomes due to political, religious, or economic pressures.



4.3.3 Any restriction on publication due to classified research agreements must be clearly defined at the start of the project.

#### 4.4 Transparency in Research Funding

4.4.1 Research projects must disclose all funding sources, and SIU will maintain a registry of funding and sponsorships to ensure transparency.

4.4.2 SIU does not accept funding from sources that impose conditions compromising research independence.

#### 4.5 Ethical Conduct and Integrity

4.5.1 All research must comply with SIU's Research Ethics Code, Thai National Research Ethics Standards, and international ethical guidelines such as the Declaration of Helsinki and UNESCO's recommendations on academic freedom.

4.5.2 Misconduct, including plagiarism, data falsification, and undue influence from funders, is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

#### 4.6 Protection from Retaliation

4.6.1 SIU guarantees protection for whistleblowers who report undue influence or violations of research independence.

4.6.2 Researchers who experience external pressure or interference must report concerns to the University Research Oversight Committee for immediate intervention.

### 5. Implementation & Compliance

5.1 The Office of Research and Innovation Center (RIC) will oversee compliance with this policy, ensuring that research independence is monitored, evaluated, and reported annually.

5.2 Workshops and training sessions on academic freedom, research ethics, and best practices will be conducted regularly.

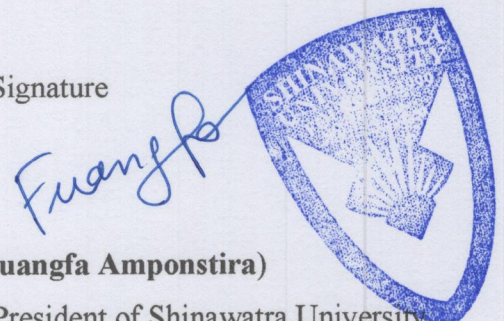
5.3 Any disputes regarding research independence will be handled by SIU's Office of Research and Innovation Center (RIC), with external peer review mechanisms where necessary.

### 6. Policy Review and Amendments

6.1 This policy will be reviewed biennially to align with Thai research regulations and global best practices.

6.2 Amendments will be proposed by the University Senate and Research Council based on institutional needs and emerging challenges.

Signature



(Dr. Fuangfa Amponstira)

On behalf of the President of Shinawatra University

Date: August 1, 2022