

The Research Strategy Plan 2022-2027

Faculty of Political Science (Department of Security Studies / Public Policies and Management)"

Innovate in policy research - Transform the future

November, 2022

**The research and study endeavors conducted by the Faculty of Political Science at UBT, in conjunction with other departments, function as an interdisciplinary research hub.**

The faculty members at the University for Business and Technology (UBT), particularly those within the Faculty of Political Science and related departments, are deeply involved in scholarly research and academic pursuits, making significant contributions to the academic mission of UBT and the aforementioned faculty. Their endeavors also enrich the educational experience of students within the Faculty of Political Science, enabling them to actively engage in the processes of discovery, innovation, interpretation, and implementation of public policies, as well as delve into interdisciplinary aspects of social development.

Furthermore, students enrolled in the Faculty of Political Science at UBT have the chance to engage in meaningful, authentic, and active learning experiences facilitated by faculty-led research and scholarly activities.

The Faculty of Political Science at UBT is deeply committed to promoting interdisciplinary public policy research with the goal of positively impacting and invigorating the academic research community, as well as local and regional communities. Through its economic influence, the faculty provides innovative interdisciplinary solutions to various societal issues, thereby contributing to the advancement of democracy, economic growth, gender equality, and enhanced quality of life.

The distinguished reputation of the Faculty of Political Science in research and scholarship notably influences:

* The way in which potential students, staff candidates, colleagues in other research institutions, interest groups, and various financial institutions perceive the Faculty of Political Science.
* The perception of graduates from the Faculty of Political Science by prospective employers and others, as research-led learning is highly valued as an asset and skill.
* The perception of the Faculty of Political Science by interest groups, the private sector, and public institutions that have the potential to support the Faculty's research endeavors.

The Faculty of Political Science at UBT plays a fundamental role in advancing knowledge, scientific interpretation, and diverse policies. This is accomplished through an integrated approach that combines innovation and mentorship, serving as the foundation for interdisciplinary research within the Faculty, spanning political sciences, public policy, and security studies.

**A perspective framework for research and academic inquiry within the Faculty of Political Science.**

* The Faculty of Political Science aims to position itself as the leading academic research collaborator in Kosovo and the broader region, with a specific focus on interdisciplinary research that combines public policies, technology, economics, and innovation.
* It aspires to be acknowledged as the primary authority in interdisciplinary research centered on Public Policy at both national and regional levels.
* Additionally, the faculty aims to gain recognition for its seamless integration of research and scholarly work with its educational initiatives.
* The Faculty of Political Science is dedicated to establishing a leading position in national and regional research and academic pursuits, striving for recognition at both national and international levels.
* Additionally, the faculty is committed to fostering a dynamic research environment, empowering academic staff to innovate and excel in their scholarly endeavors. This will involve active engagement in scientific partnerships with private sector organizations, non-profit groups, international donors, and governmental agencies.

**The intends advance in the direction of our vision's realization:**

* Raising research spending through the use of contract research, national research funding, and consulting services for the commercial, governmental, and non-governmental sectors.
* Improving the standing of research and scholarships both domestically and globally.
* By using qualitative measures for research that have been devised as part of this plan, the Faculty of Political Sciences has been able to demonstrate its high caliber in both research and scholarship.
* Delivering competent advisory support to the community, business sector, and other stakeholders in order to improve Kosovo's developmental public policies and promote economic growth, technical advancement, and sustainable development.

**Means to enhance scholarship and research at the Faculty of Political Sciences:**

1. In order to maximize the research potential of the Faculty of Political Sciences and research projects that are critical to qualifying the research capacity of the Faculty as exemplary for audiences outside of Kosovo and beyond, participation in research projects with serious foreign and domestic research institutions; systematic identification and development of interdisciplinary policy research and scholarships at the Faculty of Political Sciences in collaboration with serious foreign and domestic institutions are essential. The following areas should be the focus of future research opportunities:

* The present study aims to investigate the global threats to democracy, democratization, and de-democratization. Specifically, we will concentrate on Southeastern Europe and the phenomena of de-democratization.
* Power and sources of conflict, institutions, gender - research will address issues including what individuals, elites, and other influential political groups do, how institutions and entities act, who they represent, how distributive politics and institutions represent interests, how political processes and conflicts affect gender outcomes, etc.
* The reasons of corruption, government failures, societal and political mistrust, a lack of meritocracy in public administration, low life quality, and how to overcome these issues historically and comparably will all be covered under the topic of governance quality; The research outcomes on welfare states and development policies, including their types, causes, and effects, global poverty and inequality, ideas for economic growth and challenges, ideas of progress and realities of climate change, and North-South disparities, are what we aim to achieve.
* International relations and foreign policy - the most significant themes in contemporary global politics and international relations, actors and phenomena, paradigms of foreign policy, conflicts, their management, and solutions;
* Participation, perspectives, and political behavior - our research will investigate political participation and behavior, political perspectives, political representation, social and cultural bases of political behavior, personality traits, and their reflection in politics.
* Information technology and cybercrime

**Steps to be taken**: The Faculty Research Council will assist working groups in the Faculty to create strategies for pursuing certain research prospects. In order to maximize the resources and synergies within these particular research opportunities, the subcommittee will plan and organize the planning; nonetheless, the academic staff's leadership is essential to the effective pursuit of these opportunities.

**Duration**: In November 2022, the Research Council will host a seminar on creating a plan for pursuing research opportunities and scholarships. The planning groups will continue to work until the winter semester of 2022. To further hone the plans into groups, there will be a second workshop in February 2023. Beginning in spring 2023, the Faculty Research Council will coordinate resources to realize some of these plans based on an evaluation of individual plans and the availability of different types of support, with a focus on applying to research projects and programs with significant domestic and international research institutions. Every year, this cycle will be repeated.

**Goals**: For the academic year 2023–2027, the objective is to complete at least five extensive, multidisciplinary research plans.

**Success**: The quantity of grant-applications and data that are submitted for research projects in each particular area of research opportunities will serve as a gauge of success.

1. Strengthening Research and Consultation Within the College to Establish Critical Mass in Research Fields: Academic staff that pursue contract research and consultancy development for the national and worldwide consulting market will be empowered and rewarded in the "entrepreneurial" research culture fostered by the UBT Faculty of Political Sciences. The Faculty of Political Sciences must amass a sufficient number of academic staff members working together across disciplines in designated key research areas in order to accomplish this. These will be the selected and highlighted strategic areas in research and consulting. Additionally, a key focus will be identified for each strategic area of consulting and research.

**Steps to be taken**: The framework for empowering "entrepreneurial professors" will be adopted and implemented by the Faculty of Political Sciences, in collaboration with the UBT Board of Directors.

* An external examination of the local and global market for consulting and contract research.
* Resource-based examination of the Faculty of Political Sciences academic staff's capacity for research and consulting.
* Determining the academic members and key groups within each group for consulting and contract research services.

**Duration**: 2022–2027

**Goals**: Within the five years, ten contract research projects and consulting services are to be completed.

**Success**: The amount of contracts for consulting services and contract research will serve as a barometer for success in each particular area of research potential.

1. A focus on scholarly activity and research excellence using both quantitative and qualitative metrics measures that improve the standing of research conducted at the Faculty of Political Sciences and other academic endeavors should be adopted, and staff development plans should incorporate these measures.

**Steps to be taken**: The Faculty Research Council will create metrics and indicators for the caliber and coherence of research, including:

* Prestigious scientific awards and scholarships
* Journals and publishing houses and their indexing
* Citation indexes and impact factors
* Promotion of work in high-profile review articles
* Invited keynote speeches at national and international conferences
* The extent to which undergraduate and graduate students are involved in faculty-directed research projects, including contract research
* Mentoring of graduate students in the context of ongoing research scholarships
* Contributions to interdisciplinary research

The quality indicators will adhere to the Regulation for Standards for Election to Academic Titles at UBT; however, the Faculty of Political Sciences is free to opt for even higher quality benchmarks if desired. The Faculty Research Council at the Faculty of Political Sciences, UBT, will explore ways to enhance recognition and incentives for the faculty's achievements in research and scholarships. The quality of research will also be part of staff performance evaluations and will be included in the staff retention policy.

**Duration**: Develop indicators and measures by October 2023.

**Goals**: Achieve comparable research quality objectives with renowned European schools and Political Science/Public Policy institutions in the USA.

**Success** will be measured by prestigious annual awards, publication quality, citation numbers, h-index and i10-index, quality of monographs published by publishing houses, quality of international conventions and conferences in the field of political sciences, comparative politics, international relations, and interdisciplinary public policy fields.

1. Strengthening Research Grants for Senior and Young Researchers to Ensure Organizational Support for Research Faculty and Academic Activities for the Faculty of Political Sciences: extending funding through Research Grants for Senior Researchers and Young Students to support more individual and group research projects as well as other scientific efforts.

These resources and supports include:

* Teaching load and senior researcher schedule flexibility are determined by rules pertaining to staff research,
* teaching, and workload;
* policies for research leaders' group release times;
* and rewards for high-caliber research output and accomplishments.
* The UBT Research Directorate provides quantitative support for project planning and analysis (statistics, etc.).
* Policies that encourage travel and increase the number of postdoctoral fellows and young researchers;
* Young researcher mentoring
* Major grants for scientific research from both internal and foreign sources;
* Internal and external research grants for young researchers are available.

**Steps to be taken**: The Research Council will endeavor to improve policy support for individual staff research. With the assistance of the academic staff, the Faculty of Political Sciences Research Council will take the lead in lobbying for these changes and resources (internally and outside). To capitalize on the benefits of these policies at the Faculty and UBT levels, the Research Council will carefully identify research criteria in cooperation with the Faculty's key leaders and young researchers, and will suggest to the UBT Board the required funds for researchers.

**Duration**: Policy adjustments will be implemented by December 2023.

**Goals**: Clearly outline policies and resources required to improve faculty achievement in research and scholarship.

**Success**: Policy changes and available resources for staff research success, as well as the success of both senior and junior researchers, will be used to quantify success.

1. Development of research initiatives in subject areas created in collaboration with industry: Facilitating collaboration with external actors such as industry, local and central government, civil society, and the private sector to leverage expertise and additional resources for Faculty of Political Sciences projects and research initiatives, as well as the development of joint research projects in thematic areas of interest funded by industry.

Actions include forming a task force to work with external stakeholders and the commercial sector to generate joint research funding submissions and the formation of cooperative research initiatives that benefit the relevant interest groups. The External Stakeholders Task Force will (a) develop a financing model to sustain and improve shared research infrastructure and initiatives, (b) develop common thematic areas and problem statements that will benefit the industry, and (c) appoint shared resources and infrastructure to apply for national and international research funds and grants.

**Duration**: The task force will be formed in March 2023 and will be responsible for developing at least one research funding project per year.

**Goals**: One cooperative research grant or endeavor every year is the goal.

**Success**: The number of initiatives and funding will be used to determine success.

1. The formation of group research teams for the collaboration of staff researchers: Research within the Faculty of Political Sciences as well as across other faculties and departments is critical to establishing a reputation as a comprehensive and multidisciplinary research center.

**Steps to be taken**:

* Conducting a rigorous review of literature and worldwide scholarly publications to discover the newest scientific trends in the domains of public policy and interdisciplinary studies, as well as conducting group research.
* Established research groups in new theme areas linked with the most recent trends in literature and worldwide publications;
* Creating quantitative parameters for group research

**Duration**: For analyses, research groups, and research teams, the deadline is April 2023.

**Goals**: 10 group research projects in one to three years;

**Success**: 35% of the planned goal was met.

1. Construction and upkeep of shared research facilities, as well as supportive staff, with other colleges and institutions to improve interdisciplinary research: Creating a long-term support framework for multidisciplinary research by sharing information and staff across faculties and institutes. Collaboration with the UBT Law Faculty on the production of the Scientific Journal of Social Sciences is critical for developing multidisciplinary research.

**Steps to be taken**: Formation of Joint Working Groups to pool resources with other faculties, particularly the Law Faculty, departments within faculties, and other faculties such as the Faculty of Psychology. Development of a plan for the Scientific Journal of Social Sciences, including the Scientific Committee, Editorial Board, foreign editors, editors, peer reviewers, and the path to indexing.

**Duration**: 2023-2026

**Goals**: 1 volume every year is the goal.

**Success**: Indexing in EBSCO, DOAJ, and other databases.