

## Quality Research Policies

### *Introduction*

This document outlines the view of Quality according to the Mission of Bocconi University and in compliance with law 240/2010, legislative decree 19/2012, Ministerial decree regulating study programs and Campus accreditation, and ANVUR Guidelines.

The document includes the principle stated in the “European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” as well the suggestions developed during the conferences periodically organized by the countries adhering the European Higher Education Area EHEA.

The current structure derives from a critical review process of the internal Quality Assurance system. This review was carried out after the approval and implementation of the Strategic Plan for the 2021-2025 five-year period and aims to ensure its continuous adequacy and coherence.

The quality policies in research are structured to align with the University’s vision of the quality of its scientific activities. These policies encourage efforts toward developing actions aimed at the continuous improvement of processes and outcomes in this field.

The quality research policies, as well as other quality policies adopted by University, are strictly connected to the directions and strategic targets defined by the University, providing modes and tools for their achievement/implementation.

The University defines the tools for carrying out the monitoring of Policies and Strategies and periodically uses them in compliance with what is internally defined.



## *Stakeholders*

The structures dedicated to research at Bocconi University are:

- Departments, organized by subject matter, they carry out individual research;
- The Research Centers, which focus on structured, interdisciplinary research, involve faculty members from one or more departments and/or external personnel

The management and development of human resources and all the activities aimed to promote the excellence of pure research and teaching are delegated to the Departments. These activities include staff selection, junior instructor mentoring, networking with researchers from other Italian and foreign universities, organization of internal seminars.

Research Centers are structures organized by topic instead of subject matter, they oversee financed research constituted by competitive grants and sponsored research. Research centers operate independently from Departments<sup>1</sup>.

## *Quality Research Overview*

Research is the University's driving force, setting it apart from mere educational institutions. The passion of faculty members for research guides them, enhancing their educational role and societal contributions. Furthermore, excellence in research is also crucial for ensuring high-quality student education, aiming to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to rigorously analyze economic and social phenomena.

Bocconi University believes in the importance of cultivating an environment that fosters the creativity and productivity of its members, nurturing frontier research. This type of research aims to advance knowledge in a specific field and includes internationally recognized elements of creativity and originality. Furthermore, Bocconi emphasizes the importance of conducting "responsible" research, meaning it is both credible and beneficial, with a significant and positive impact on society (businesses, institutions, and policymakers broadly).

This translates into a basic orientation of the action of the University's researchers, which is to dialogue with interlocutors that include academia as well as civil society, exploiting potential internal and external synergies to enable Bocconi to become, by 2030, the reference point for continental Europe in the social sciences.

## *Guiding Criteria*

In pursuing its vision of quality research, Bocconi University takes inspiration from the following fundamental criteria, aligned with the objectives declared in the University Strategic Plan 2021-25:

<sup>1</sup> For further information concerning the tasks of Departments and Research Centers, with reference to Third Mission-Social Impact, please refer to the introduction paragraph (I-O) of the Annual Form for Third Mission- Social Impact activities.



- Prioritizing quality and significance in research activities, particularly within key areas of the social sciences and related disciplines that will be crucial for their development: the University encourages its researchers to carry out quality research, labelling as worthy those scientific products that offer a relevant and distinctive contribution to the academic community of reference.
- Freedom and autonomy in research: Bocconi University ensures its instructors the essential conditions for carrying out their scientific activities (pure or applied) in a free and unconditioned way. Furthermore, the University promotes and supports research activities carried out by faculty by encouraging the development of a fruitful and mutual collaboration (especially among instructors of different disciplines) and the continuity of commitment in this area throughout the academic career.
- Incentivization: the University supports and promotes the prestigious achievement obtained through research activities by applying a system of incentives and recognitions of various nature and consistency.
- Research Centrality: The University encourages the contamination of research with other activity areas (Teaching and Third Mission- Social Impact) considering it a valuable asset in its relationships with stakeholders who are both internal (students, instructors and staff) and external (Alumni, academic community and the greater public).
- Investment in the “academia of the future”: the University ensures scientific research will be pursued in future, through the training of the next generations of researchers within the area of PhDs. The quality of these programs is ensured by the rigorous selection and training processes of participants.

### *How the Policy Is Implemented*

The quality research policy is implemented by the University starting from the abovementioned criteria, which can be summarized as follows:

- Adoption of clear and rigorous mechanisms aimed to recognize the excellence of scientific research; these mechanisms follow parameters shared at the international level to define the best outputs.
- Implementation of a well-structured individual incentivization system aimed to reward the excellence of scientific research. While respecting research freedom and through the actions of Departments and Research Centers, the University directs research towards:
  - New research fields, in line with its positioning.
  - Topics that represents the main challenges in contemporary society.
- Autonomy of action for researchers: within the area of scientific production objectives and relevance/impact of the related outputs defined by the University, researchers are free to choose their research field.
- Provision of internal regulations and control systems that, while respecting research



autonomy, aim to prevent behaviors not in compliance with current legislation or that are unfair.

- Creation of an environment open to the development of pure and applied research activity within Departments, Research Centers and structures dedicated to research, through:
  - The sharing of technological infrastructures and informational systems that are adequate and constantly updated, as well appropriate spaces;
  - Mentoring activities carried out by senior faculty members of each Department dedicated to young researchers.
  - Promotion of collaboration forms among researchers from different Departments.
  - Professional support of administrative staff dedicated to research.
- Autonomy of action for Research centers at the University, which auto-promote the achievement of their objectives in compliance with some restrictions defined at the central level aimed to allow these structures to contribute to the achievement of strategic objectives at the University. This is also made possible through the application of an incentive system for Research Centers, which encourages participation in and the acquisition of international research grants (e.g. ERC).
- Connection between research and teaching: the development of frontier research characterizing educational activities and, in particular, this represents the core of training in Master of Science programs, PhD programs and lifelong learning programs, as well as teaching training activities for faculty members.
- Focus on sharing research results, that are addressed to a non-academic audience through easily accessible tools.

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