

INTEGRATE

Inter-Institutional Research Access & Mentorship Program

Amala Integrated Medical Research Department (AIMRD)

Amala Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS)

1. Objective

The objective of the **INTEGRATE (Inter-Institutional Research Access & Mentorship Program)** is to establish a structured, ethical, and non-commercial mechanism through which the Amala Integrated Medical Research Department (AIMRD) extends its scientific mentorship, expertise, and select research resources to students and scholars from institutions outside Amala Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS). Conceived as a *Good Samaritan academic initiative*, INTEGRATE aims to promote inclusive research capacity building, strengthen inter-institutional academic relationships, and support high-quality research outcomes by providing access to experienced scientific mentorship. The program is intended to support and refine external research projects without interfering with or replacing the supervisory authority of the scholar's parent institution.

2. Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to postgraduate students, doctoral scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career researchers from recognized external academic or research institutions who seek scientific mentorship and limited access to AIMRD resources for their research projects. INTEGRATE supports short-term and medium-term research engagements related to dissertations, theses, method development, data analysis, experimental troubleshooting, and manuscript preparation. The program does not confer any academic enrollment, employment status, or degree affiliation with AIMS and functions strictly as a mentorship and academic support initiative.

3. Eligibility and Access

Eligibility under INTEGRATE is extended to external scholars who are formally registered with their parent institutions and possess a clearly defined research proposal approved by their respective departmental or institutional authorities. Applications will be reviewed based on academic merit, feasibility, ethical compliance, and alignment with AIMRD expertise. Access to AIMRD facilities, laboratories, or analytical platforms—where applicable—will be regulated, selective, and subject to availability, safety norms, and prior written approval by the competent authority at AIMRD.



4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 AIMRD Scientists

AIMRD scientists will function as **research mentors** under INTEGRATE. Their role is to provide guidance on research design, methodology, experimental planning, data interpretation, scientific writing, and publication standards. They will not assume the role of academic supervisors and will not be responsible for administrative or degree-related obligations of the external scholar. Mentorship will be advisory in nature and aligned with institutional ethical and professional standards.

4.2 External Scholars

External scholars are responsible for maintaining active communication with both their parent-institution supervisors and assigned AIMRD mentors. They must ensure timely sharing of research plans, data, and progress updates and are expected to adhere strictly to ethical norms, confidentiality agreements, and institutional regulations of both institutions.

4.3 Parent Institution Supervisors

The primary responsibility for academic supervision, topic approval, evaluation, and degree certification remains entirely with the scholar's parent institution. INTEGRATE does not alter or dilute this responsibility.

5. Mechanism of Implementation

The INTEGRATE program will be implemented through a formal application and approval process. External scholars will submit a brief research proposal, institutional endorsement, and ethical clearance status to AIMRD for review. Upon approval, an AIMRD mentor will be assigned, and an orientation meeting will be conducted to outline expectations, scope of mentorship, timelines, and resource access conditions. Mentorship interactions may include periodic meetings (online or offline), documented feedback sessions, and project-specific consultations. All engagements will be time-bound and project-specific.

6. Communication and Coordination

A designated INTEGRATE program coordinator at AIMRD will facilitate communication between external scholars, AIMRD mentors, and institutional authorities. All formal communications, approvals, and documentation will be maintained through official channels to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper record keeping.

7. Confidentiality, Ethics, and Compliance



All data, results, manuscripts, and unpublished findings shared under INTEGRATE will be treated as strictly confidential. Intellectual property, data ownership, and authorship arrangements will be clearly defined in advance, in accordance with institutional and national guidelines. External scholars must obtain all necessary ethical approvals (IEC/IAEC/IBSC, as applicable) from their parent institutions and comply with AIMS ethical policies when accessing AIMRD facilities or mentorship.



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