



For an Open Mind

UNIVERSAL TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

UTAMU

UTAMU RESEARCH AGENDA, 2026.

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Background to the UTAMU Research Agenda (2026–2031)

Universal Technology and Management University (UTAMU) is guided by the vision “*to be a global educational institution for management, science, technology and innovation.*” This vision positions the University as a knowledge hub that not only responds to national development priorities but also engages meaningfully with global scholarly, technological, and innovation ecosystems. Central to this aspiration is a strong and coherent research agenda that advances knowledge, informs policy and practice, and contributes to sustainable economic and human development at local, regional, and international levels.

The Mission of UTAMU is “*to provide global quality education, research and innovation critical to economic and human development*”. This underscores research and innovation as a core pillar of the University’s mandate. Research at UTAMU is therefore conceived not merely as an academic obligation, but as a transformative tool for addressing complex societal challenges, enhancing institutional relevance, and fostering innovation-driven solutions. In this regard, the University’s research agenda is expected to integrate management, science, and technology in ways that generate practical, context-sensitive, and globally competitive knowledge.

The UTAMU Research Agenda 2026–2031 provides a strategic framework for prioritizing, coordinating, and strengthening research activities across the University. It seeks to align research efforts with national development frameworks, regional priorities, and global development discourses, while leveraging UTAMU’s distinctive strengths in technology, management, and innovation. Through this agenda, UTAMU aims to promote interdisciplinary and applied research, nurture a vibrant research culture, support staff and student scholarship, and enhance partnerships with industry, government, and international institutions. Ultimately, the Research Agenda serves as a roadmap for translating the University’s vision and mission into impactful research outcomes that contribute to economic growth, social transformation, and human well-being during the period 2026–2031.

Executive Summary

This UTAMU Research Agenda (2026–2031) provides a strategic framework to guide Universal Technology and Management University (UTAMU) in generating impactful, policy-relevant, and innovation-driven research aligned with national and global development priorities. Guided by current Uganda’s National Development Plan (NDP

IV) for the period FY 2025/26–FY 2029/30 and the current official document that defines the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UTAMU research agenda identifies priority thematic areas, implementation mechanisms, and monitoring frameworks to strengthen UTAMU’s contribution to socio-economic transformation.

Context and Rationale

Universities play a critical role in national development through research, innovation, and knowledge transfer. Uganda’s National Development Plans emphasize science, technology, innovation, industrialization, and human capital development as key drivers of economic growth. Similarly, the SDGs call for evidence-based solutions to challenges such as poverty, health, education, climate change, governance, and inequality. UTAMU’s research agenda is therefore designed to align institutional research priorities with national policy imperatives and global development commitments.

UTAMU Research priority areas (2026–2031) shall be:

1. Digital Innovation in emerging technologies
2. Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics, and Information Assurance
3. Software Engineering, Cloud Computing, and Digital Platforms
4. Human-Centered Technology (Computing Education, Digital Skills etc)
5. Entrepreneurship, Business Management, and SME Development
6. Health Systems, Public Health, and Community Well-being
7. Climate Change, indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable development
8. Urban Development, Infrastructure, and Smart Cities
9. Education Systems, Skills Development, and Human Capital.
10. Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusive Communities

Each priority area will support interdisciplinary research, policy engagement, and innovation for development.

Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the Research Agenda will involve strengthening research governance structures, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhancing partnerships with government, industry, civil society, and international institutions.

UTAMU will invest in staff research capacity building, competitive grant acquisition, ethical review systems, and knowledge dissemination platforms.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

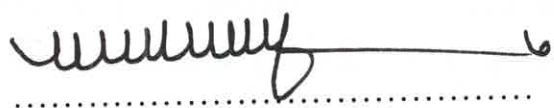
The Monitoring and Evaluation framework will track research outputs, outcomes, and impacts using key performance indicators such as publications, policy briefs, innovations, grants secured, and community impact. Annual reviews will assess alignment with SDGs and NDP priorities, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.

Review of the agenda

This Research Agenda will be reviewed every (5) Five years to take into account emerging issues and trends.

Signed on this 27th.....day of.....March..... 2026

By:



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Chairperson, University Council



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Vice Chancellor