



PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

Anti-Poverty Policy

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Overview

Phoenicia University (PU) recognizes that higher education institutions play an important role in addressing poverty through education, research, community engagement, professional expertise, strategic partnerships, and evidence-informed policymaking. In alignment with the University's mission of serving society and contributing to sustainable development, PU supports initiatives that seek to reduce poverty, strengthen community resilience, improve access to essential services, and promote inclusive social and economic development.

This Policy supports the University's contribution to **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty)** by providing a framework through which the University contributes its academic expertise, research capacity, professional knowledge, and community partnerships to initiatives addressing poverty and social vulnerability.

Recognizing that poverty is multidimensional and may include economic hardship, limited access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, social protection, and other essential services, PU seeks to contribute practical and evidence-based solutions through collaboration with public institutions, civil society organizations, industry, and community partners.

Institutional Objectives

Through this Policy, PU aims to:

- contribute academic expertise, research, and professional knowledge to initiatives addressing poverty and social vulnerability;
- encourage interdisciplinary collaboration in developing practical and evidence-informed responses to poverty-related challenges;
- support partnerships that promote inclusive community development and sustainable livelihoods;
- encourage faculty, staff, and students to participate, where appropriate, in research, consultancy, community engagement, and policy dialogue addressing poverty;
- promote public awareness and knowledge-sharing activities that contribute to informed public policy and community development;
- support opportunities for experiential learning and community engagement that strengthen students' understanding of social responsibility and sustainable development; and
- contribute, within the University's mission and available resources, to initiatives that improve the wellbeing and resilience of disadvantaged communities.

Scope

This Policy applies to all University colleges, administrative units, faculty members, staff, researchers, and students participating in University-approved teaching, research, consultancy, community

engagement, outreach, or partnership activities related to poverty reduction and community development.

Accountability

Governance Role	Responsible Office / Officer
Accountable Officer(s)	President and Concerned Dean(s)
Responsible Office	Office of Research and Advancement
Supporting Offices	Colleges, Research Office, Community Engagement Units, Partner Organizations

Policy Principles

The implementation of this Policy shall be guided by the following principles:

- community partnership and collaboration;
- evidence-informed decision-making;
- social responsibility;
- interdisciplinary cooperation;
- sustainability;
- inclusiveness;
- respect for community needs; and
- alignment with the University's mission and strategic priorities.

Implementation

PU contributes to poverty reduction through institutional activities that may include teaching, research, professional expertise, strategic partnerships, and community engagement, recognising that the University's primary contribution is the application of knowledge and expertise rather than the direct delivery of social welfare services.

Implementation of this Policy may include, where appropriate:

Research and Evidence-Based Practice

The University encourages research, applied studies, policy analysis, and interdisciplinary scholarship that contribute to understanding poverty and identifying practical, sustainable, and evidence-informed solutions to socioeconomic challenges.

Research findings may contribute to public policy discussions, community programs, institutional decision-making, and professional practice.

Professional Expertise and Policy Development

Faculty members may contribute professional expertise through consultations, technical advice, policy dialogue, program evaluation, expert committees, and other professional activities that support organizations working to address poverty and social vulnerability.

Where appropriate, PU may contribute evidence-based recommendations to governmental bodies, municipalities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and other stakeholders.

Community Engagement

The University encourages colleges and administrative units to develop community engagement initiatives that contribute to social inclusion, community development, capacity building, public awareness, and improved access to knowledge and professional expertise.

Such initiatives may include public lectures, workshops, awareness campaigns, legal education activities, health promotion initiatives, community training programs, student volunteering, and other outreach activities aligned with the University's mission.

Strategic Partnerships

PU recognizes the importance of collaboration in addressing complex social challenges and therefore seeks to establish and maintain partnerships with governmental organizations, municipalities, civil society organizations, educational institutions, professional bodies, industry partners, healthcare organizations, and international organizations where such partnerships support the objectives of this Policy.

Through such partnerships, PU contributes academic expertise, research, and professional consultation to support the design, implementation, evaluation, and continuous improvement of programs addressing poverty, disability, social inclusion, and community resilience.

Faculty members may provide evidence-based advice, specialized expertise, program evaluation, research support, and professional consultation to strengthen initiatives implemented through this partnership.

The University may establish additional partnerships that advance the objectives of this Policy where appropriate.

Student Engagement

Where appropriate, students may participate in research projects, community engagement activities, internships, volunteering initiatives, service-learning activities, or other experiential learning opportunities that contribute to poverty reduction, social inclusion, and sustainable community development while supporting their educational experience.

Monitoring and Review

The Responsible Office shall periodically review the implementation of this Policy and may consider indicators including:

- community partnerships established or maintained;
- research and consultancy activities relating to poverty and community development;
- community engagement initiatives;
- public awareness activities;
- student participation in relevant initiatives; and
- opportunities for continuous institutional improvement.

Related Policies

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Lifelong Learning Access Policy;
- Women's Access and Participation Policy;
- Research Policy;
- Volunteer and Outreach initiatives; and
- other relevant University policies.



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