3.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY: RESEARCH

1. Purpose

This document is based on ADA University's general *Academic Quality Assurance Policy.* Its purpose is to define specific structures and procedures of academic quality assurance for the area *Research*.

2. Scope and Recommendations

This policy applies to the area *Research*. It provides guidance on the assessment and enhancement of the area's *Quality Standard* and *Quality Guidelines*, of its key documents and of actual outcomes.

This policy should be read in conjunction with ADA University's general *Academic Quality Assurance Policy*.

3. Definitions

The area *Research* contains major documents that provide the framework for scholarship at ADA University. These include fundamental principles of research; regulations pertaining to the funding of research and of the professional development of faculty; as well as a reward program for excellence in research.

Quality Indicators are clearly defined criteria that allow for the assessment of academic quality and quality assurance documents as well as of their outcomes. The results of these assessments serve to further enhance the quality of documents and outcomes.

4. Quality Indicators

4.1 Quality indicators must be based on international best practices and reflect the quality standards and requirements defined for *Research* in ADA University's *Academic Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines*. They must cover all key documents and related outcomes as well as the area's *Quality Standard* and *Quality Guidelines*.

4.2 When reviewing key documents, their actual outcomes and the *Quality Standard* and *Quality Guidelines* contained in the area *Research*, the process of quality assurance must be based on the quality indicators defined in 4.3 to 4.11.

4.3 The *Quality Standard* and *Quality Guidelines* continue to reflect international best practices and serve to provide an environment of excellence in research.

4.4 Research throughout all Schools adheres to and serves the vision, purposes, academic principles and core values of ADA University.

4.5 Research at ADA University is innovative and conducted according to high international standards. It contributes both to the advancement of knowledge within relevant academic disciplines and to the enhancement of teaching and learning at the University.

4.6 No faculty member of ADA University is restricted in his/her free pursuit of knowledge. The University's faculty are continually engaged in research (and are allocated sufficient time to do so) and in the further development of their academic qualifications and capabilities.

4.7 No researcher violates the principle of academic integrity, and conflicts of interest are made transparent and are (whenever possible) resolved. All resources received to support research are allocated adequately throughout all Schools and research projects.

4.8 The principles defined in ADA University's *Statement on Research* reflect international best practices. They are comprehensively implemented throughout all Schools and research projects. When assessing the implementation of the principles set forth in the *Statement on Research*, the process of quality assurance will be guided by the following quality indicators:

   a. All research projects conducted at the University address topics that are of disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary significance. They are designed in a way that is appropriate to the respective topic. They furthermore take into consideration relevant theories and approaches as well as the most recent developments in the field (or fields) of research.

   b. All research projects conducted at the University are based on a well-structured and comprehensive research plan. Each project obtains peer review at significant stages that serves to contribute to the high quality of the project.

   c. The outcomes of each research project implemented at the University are substantial and relevant in nature. They are published with recognized academic journals and/or publishers.

   d. Faculty members from all Schools are regularly engaged in collaborative research projects on a national and/or international level. These projects fully correspond to the research standard, requirements and principles defined by ADA University.

4.9 The University's *Faculty Research and Development Fund and Regulations* provide a substantial and efficient program that is sufficiently endowed with financial resources to support the research activities and professional development of its faculty. The review mechanisms that serve to evaluate applications for the funding of research projects, conference participation and professional development adequately identify and select those proposals that correspond to ADA University's quality requirements and that are best suited to promote research excellence and the academic capabilities of its faculty. All funds and grants allocated to Schools and individual faculty members are used adequately and solely for their respective purposes, and the University receives reports on the allocation of these funds from each School and individual faculty member.

4.10 ADA University's *Research Reward Program and Regulations* provide a substantial reward mechanism that is sufficiently endowed with financial resources to fulfill its purpose of rewarding publications of high quality. The program's rewards continue to be appropriate. Its reward criteria adequately identify the most renowned international publishers and journals and effectively target the University's research output.

4.11 In addition to its funding and reward programs, ADA University supports the research activities of its faculty by offering research trainings, advice on legal and ethical matters and on the resolution of conflicts of interest, as well as guidance on publication opportunities and procedures. These offerings are efficient and serve to further develop the research capabilities of the University's faculty and to improve the quality of its research output.

5. Quality Assurance Procedures

5.1 The process of quality assurance in the area *Research* is based on the quality indicators defined above and on the quality review cycle and the procedures delineated in ADA University's general *Academic Quality Assurance Policy*.

5.2 The process of quality assurance must pay particular attention (1) to the quality of research projects and outcomes and of the institution's entire research output; (2) to the effectiveness of the University's funding and reward mechanisms; and (3) to the effectiveness of its assessment procedures that must serve to further strengthen research excellence at the University. In case of shortcomings, the Quality Assurance Committee will initiate and supervise improvements as appropriate and with the objective of enhancing the quality of the area's documents and of the research conducted at ADA University.