



# **Western Caspian University**

## **Scientific Research Strategy**

It was approved by the decision of the Academic Council of Western Caspian University at the meeting dated May 31, 2021 (protocol No. 10).

**2021**

## **About Western Caspian University**

Western Caspian University is a private higher education institution operating in the field of higher education since 1991. Although the thirty-year history of Western Caspian University is relatively short compared to universities with a hundred-year history, the results and values we have achieved in this short time inspire us about the bright future of Western Caspian University.

Western Caspian University is a modern higher education institution, and there is still much work to be done to further develop this university in the future. We have distinctive values:

- We move gradually and confidently towards the goals and objectives we set for ourselves;

- We continue to expand our activities and relationships;
- We are open and flexible to positive changes in all directions;
- We are progressive, tolerant, and strive to keep pace with the times;
- We approach the future of Western Caspian University with optimism;
- We support new initiatives and are confident in our success.

The university's multicultural staff provides long-term perspectives and diverse opportunities for lifelong acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Western Caspian University:

- Continues to increase agreements with international partners and expand educational activities;

- Creates a globally cooperative and internationally recognized excellent educational environment for teaching;

- Strives to be progressive by keeping up with world trends in the academic field.

The university aims to train highly qualified specialists in the humanities, social sciences, and engineering fields through education and research, equipped with modern, innovative education and teaching infrastructure to meet global challenges.

The preparation of Western Caspian University's Scientific Research Strategy is based on the following official and unofficial documents as well as the results of discussions with stakeholders:

- Western Caspian University Strategies for 2017-2023 and 2021-2025;
- The Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG);
- ISO 21001, Educational Organization Management Systems (ISO 21001);
- Criteria for Institutional and Program Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions;
- Requirements and criteria of international ranking agencies related to scientific

research;

- Practices of international and local higher education institutions;
- Results of discussions held with stakeholders.

### **Mission**

The mission of Western Caspian University is to train highly qualified specialists through education and research in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and engineering by having a modern, innovative education and teaching infrastructure that meets global challenges.

### **Strategic Vision**

To be the university in the region where the most modern and high-quality education and research meet the demands of the labor market.

## **Scientific Research Strategy of Western Caspian University for 2021–2025**

The strategy includes the following directions:

1. Establishment of the material and technical base for scientific research activities in accordance with the university's profile;
2. Identification of scientific research directions and topics at WCU;
3. Formation of scientific research groups to implement research topics;
4. Organization of internal discussions on scientific research results within WCU;
5. Dissemination of scientific research results;
6. Expansion of international relations of WCU scientific research groups.

### **Main Targets for Direction 1:**

- 1.1. Development of the material and technical base of laboratories aligned with departments and specialties at WCU;
- 1.2. Creating an encouraging environment to ensure the sustainable and long-term activity of academic staff;
- 1.3. Expansion of the University Technopark and strengthening its material-technical base;
- 1.4. Establishment of international research-oriented centers;
  - 1.4.1. Strengthening the material-technical base of the Caspian Research Center;
- 1.5. Ensuring the development and preparation of international and local grant projects.

### **Main Targets for Direction 2:**

- 2.1. Achieving the implementation of scientific research topics ordered by business, government agencies, or research institutes;
- 2.3. Identification of research directions by departments;
- 2.4. Ensuring that research topics by departments relate to real economic and social life and address existing problems in any field of the country;
- 2.5. Preparing specific projects related to the preparation for TEXNOFEST competitions at the University Technopark;
- 2.6. Developing research topics at the Caspian Research Center.

### **Main Targets for Direction 3:**

- 3.1. Encouraging researchers with high indicators in reputable scientometric databases to join the university;
- 3.2. Forming scientific research groups for each topic including academic staff, postgraduate (PhD) students, and undergraduate students (TEC members);
- 3.3. Determining annual phases and subtopics of scientific research groups' research topics;
- 3.4. Preparing teams for TEXNOFEST competitions at the University Technopark;
- 3.5. Preparing research groups for projects planned at the Caspian Research Center.

### **Main Targets for Direction 4:**

- 4.1. Conducting discussions with stakeholders on the results of scientific research carried out or ongoing at departments;
- 4.2. Enhancing the knowledge and skills of academic staff, doctoral students (or postgraduate students), as well as masters and bachelors in scientific research;
- 4.3. Supporting the principle of dual supervision over dissertations of masters, doctoral students, and postgraduates.

### **Main Targets for Direction 5:**

- 5.1. Encouraging presentation of research results at conferences held within the country by departments;
- 5.2. Expanding the activities of 4 scientific journals in different fields to publish WCU scientific research results and other researchers' works;
- 5.3. Organizing one international conference annually to discuss WCU scientific research results with other researchers, including foreign researchers;
- 5.4. Increasing the number of articles published in journals indexed in SCOPUS and CLARIVATE to disseminate WCU scientific research results to the international scientific community.

### **1. Stakeholders Involved in Preparing the Scientific Research Strategy of Western Caspian University:**

- University leadership (Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rector, Vice-Rectors);
- Responsible person for strategic development at the university;
- University financial manager;
- University human resources manager;
- Deans;
- Heads of departments;
- Head of Master's and Doctoral Studies Department;
- Laboratory managers;
- Chairman of the Student Scientific Society.