



RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY

NKPOLU-OROWORUKWO, PORT HARCOURT



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

JULY, 2026

PREFACE

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges for higher education institutions worldwide. Recognising these realities, Rivers State University has developed this AI Policy to provide an institutional framework for the ethical, responsible, and sustainable integration of AI into teaching, learning, research, innovation, administration, and community service.

The Policy is informed by:

- National Universities Commission (NUC) AI Framework Policy (2025);
- Nigerian Data Protection Act (2023);
- National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) guidelines;
- Best Practices Adopted by Leading Universities Globally.

This Policy establishes governance structures, institutional responsibilities, ethical principles, operational guidelines, and implementation mechanisms necessary to position Rivers State University as a leading AI-enabled university in Nigeria and Africa.

FOREWORD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become one of the most transformative technologies of the twenty-first century. Across higher education, AI is redefining teaching and learning, accelerating research and innovation, improving administrative efficiency, and expanding opportunities for community engagement.

Rivers State University recognises that AI is no longer an emerging technology but an institutional necessity. Universities that embrace responsible AI will be better positioned to produce globally competitive graduates, attract research funding, strengthen governance, and provide innovative solutions to societal challenges.

This Artificial Intelligence Policy establishes the University's strategic direction for the responsible adoption, development, deployment, and governance of AI across all academic and administrative functions. The Policy promotes ethical AI, academic integrity, innovation, data protection, transparency, and accountability while ensuring compliance with national regulations and international best practices.

I therefore encourage all members of this University community to embrace AI as a tool that complements, (not replaces) human creativity, critical thinking, scholarship, and professional judgment.



Professor Isaac Zeb-Obipi
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a strategic driver of educational transformation, scientific discovery, institutional efficiency, and economic development. Universities worldwide are integrating AI into their core mandates to enhance academic excellence, improve operational effectiveness, and foster innovation.

Rivers State University seeks to leverage AI to strengthen teaching and learning, promote high-quality research, improve institutional governance, automate routine administrative processes, enhance student services, and address societal challenges through responsible innovation.

This Policy provides a comprehensive institutional framework governing the adoption, development, procurement, deployment, monitoring, and evaluation of AI technologies across the University. It establishes ethical principles, governance structures, operational standards, and accountability mechanisms while ensuring compliance with applicable laws and international best practices.

The Policy applies to all staff, students, researchers, consultants, contractors, and external collaborators who use or develop AI systems on behalf of the University.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved from a specialised area of Computer Science and Engineering into a transformative technology that influences nearly every sector of society. Within higher education, AI is increasingly supporting adaptive learning, automated assessment, research analytics, digital libraries, student support services, administrative decision-making, cybersecurity, healthcare, engineering design, environmental monitoring, and institutional planning.

The National Universities Commission has recognised AI as a strategic priority for the Nigerian University System and has developed a national framework to guide responsible AI adoption across universities.

Rivers State University acknowledges that AI represents an opportunity to improve institutional competitiveness, enhance graduate employability, expand research capacity, and strengthen public service. At the same time, the University recognises the risks associated with AI, including algorithmic bias, misinformation, privacy breaches, academic misconduct, cybersecurity threats, and ethical concerns.

Accordingly, this Policy establishes a comprehensive framework for the responsible integration of AI into all University functions.

1.2 About Rivers State University

Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, a third-generation Nigerian university, emerged from the Rivers State College of Arts and Science in 1980 as the Rivers State University of Science and Technology. It is the premier State-owned University of science and technology in Nigeria; but had its name changed to Rivers State University in 2017.

The vision of the University is to:

“Establish a world class and uncommon university that will be structurally and philosophically oriented to solve the practical and peculiar challenging problems of the region”.

To achieve this vision, as stated in its mission, it seeks to:

- i. Offer men and women a unique educational opportunity and experience for the pursuit of learning in the relevant branches of knowledge by:
- ii. Encouraging and promoting excellence in original, creative and scholarly research (basic and applied) in fostering the learning process with problem solving content;
- iii. Supporting and sustaining the expansion of frontiers of human knowledge in the various disciplines, responding especially to the contemporary scientific and technical demands and challenges of the society;

- iv. Improving the appreciation and development of the region's abundant physical, natural and social resources, as well as advancement of her rich cultural heritage through an approach and strategy anchored on excellence and creativity.

The elements of this mission are reflected in the University Logo (open book, gear, atomic nucleus, navy blue colour and green), Motto (excellence and creativity), Colours (blue, white and green) and Anthem (with two verses, both ending with "All for excellence and creativity").

Located at Nkpolu-Oroworukwo in Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, it has had fourteen (14) Visitors, four (4) Chancellors, eleven (11) Pro-Chancellors and Chairmen of Council, fifteen (15) Governing Councils and twelve (12) Vice-Chancellors. Its present Vice-Chancellor is Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi. The University has fourteen (14) Faculties, a Medical College, College of Postgraduate Studies, Graduate Business School, ninety-two (92) Departments, alongside Institutes, Centres and Units.

1.3 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a coherent institutional framework that governs the ethical, transparent, accountable, secure, and effective use of AI throughout Rivers State University.

1.4 Objectives of the Policy

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- i. Promote responsible AI adoption across all University functions.
- ii. Enhance teaching, learning, research, and innovation through AI.
- iii. Improve institutional efficiency and service delivery.
- iv. Protect academic integrity.
- v. Personalize learning experiences.
- vi. Support students with disabilities.
- vii. Provide timely academic feedback.
- viii. Strengthen digital literacy.
- ix. Build AI literacy among staff and students.
- x. Foster interdisciplinary AI research.
- xi. Encourage partnerships with industry and government.
- xii. Prepare graduates for the AI-driven economy
- xiii. Support AI entrepreneurship and commercialization.
- xiv. Position Rivers State University as a leading AI-enabled university in Africa.

1.5 Scope

This Policy applies to academic and non-academic staff, students, researchers, visiting scholars, consultants, contractors, service providers, external collaborators and alumni engaged in University AI projects.

It covers AI use in teaching, learning, research, administration, finance, registry, library, ICT, admissions, student affairs, quality assurance, security and community engagement

1.6 Guiding Principles

The implementation of this Policy shall be guided by:

- Human-centred AI
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Fairness
- Inclusiveness
- Privacy
- Security
- Academic Integrity
- Innovation
- Sustainability
- Compliance with applicable laws

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence: The field of Computer Science and Engineering that enables machines or software systems to simulate human intelligence by learning, reasoning, solve problems, and making decisions.

Artificial Neural Networks: These are AI systems inspired by the human brain that use interconnected nodes (neurons) to learn patterns, process data, and make predictions.

Machine Learning: A branch of AI that enables computers to learn from data, identify patterns, and make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed.

Generative AI: A type of AI that creates new content such as text, images, audio, videos, or code by learning patterns from existing data.

Large Language Models: Advanced AI models trained on vast amounts of text data to understand, generate, and process human language.

Deep Learning: A branch of Artificial Neural Network that uses multi-layered neural networks to learn patterns from large amounts of data and perform complex tasks.

Explainable AI: An approach that makes AI systems' decisions and predictions understandable, transparent, and interpretable to humans.

AI Governance: The framework of policies, rules, and practices that guide the responsible development, deployment, and management of AI systems.

AI Ethics: The set of moral principles and guidelines that ensure AI systems are designed and used in a fair, transparent, safe, and responsible manner.

AI Risk: The potential for an AI system to cause harm, errors, bias, security issues, or other unintended negative consequences to people or society.

Human Oversight: The process of ensuring that people monitor, review, and can intervene in AI systems to ensure safe, ethical, and accurate decisions.

Foundation Models: These are large, pre-trained AI models that serve as a base for performing and adapting to a wide variety of tasks.

Prompt Engineering: The process of designing and refining instructions (prompts) to help an AI system produce accurate, relevant, and useful responses.

Responsible AI: The development and use of AI in a way that is ethical, fair, transparent, accountable, and respectful of human rights and privacy.

CHAPTER 2

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

2.1 Policy Statement

Rivers State University shall establish a robust governance framework to ensure that AI technologies are deployed responsibly, ethically, transparently, securely, and in alignment with the University's strategic objectives.

2.2 AI Governance/Steering Committee

The University shall establish a multidisciplinary AI Governance/Steering Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor, with the following composition:

- i. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) as **Chairman**
- ii. University Librarian
- iii. Director, ICTC
- iv. Director, Academic Planning
- v. Director, Quality Assurance
- vi. Director, Research and Development
- vii. Director, Legal
- viii. Representative from the Committee of Provosts and Deans
- ix. Representatives from SUG & PGSA
- x. Senior Registry Staff as **Secretary**

The Committee shall:

- i. Monitor implementation of the Policy.
- ii. Review AI risks.
- iii. Recommend new AI initiatives.
- iv. Approve AI standards and guidelines.
- v. Advise Senate.
- vi. Submit annual reports to Senate.

2.3 Faculty Responsibilities

Each Faculty shall:

- Develop AI implementation plans.
- Review curricula to incorporate AI where appropriate.
- Encourage ethical AI use in teaching and research.
- Monitor AI-related academic practices.

2.4 Departmental Responsibilities

Departments shall:

- Integrate AI into teaching and research where appropriate.
- Monitor compliance with departmental AI guidelines.
- Support AI literacy among staff and students.

2.5 Review Mechanism

The Policy shall be reviewed every five years in line with the University's approved strategic development plan.

CHAPTER 3

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

3.1 Policy Statement

Artificial Intelligence shall be used only in ways that uphold the University's values of integrity, excellence, accountability, equity, transparency, respect for human dignity, and public trust.

3.2 Human-Centred AI

AI shall augment, and not replace human judgment, creativity, scholarship, and professional responsibility. Decisions affecting students, staff, or stakeholders shall always involve meaningful human oversight.

3.3 Academic Integrity

The use of AI shall not compromise originality, honesty, or independent intellectual effort. AI-generated content must not be presented as wholly original work where disclosure is required, and assessment practices shall promote authentic learning.

3.4 Acceptable Use of AI

The Committee recommends the following acceptable level of AI use for this University. Sanctions for misuse shall include retraction, loss of privileges, demotion, or disciplinary action as per university regulations.

S/N	Programme/Activity	Level	Remarks
1.	PhD degree research	15%	Greater originality required (85%).
2.	Master's degree research	20%	More originality required (80%).
3.	Bachelor's degree/ Diploma/ Certificate project	30%	A-level originality required (70%).
4.	Research Publication	25%	Originality required (75%).
5.	Teaching	40%	Enables more AI inputs in teaching but at a reasonable level of originality.
6.	University Administration	50%	More of repetitive tasks involved but not below a credit level of originality is required even in documents generated for administrative purposes.

3.5 Fairness and Non-Discrimination

AI systems deployed by the University shall be designed, selected, and monitored to minimise bias and avoid unfair discrimination based on gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, or other protected characteristics.

3.6 Transparency and Explainability

Where AI is used to support decisions or generate outputs that affect individuals, the University shall promote transparency regarding the role of AI, the basis of decisions where feasible, and appropriate documentation of AI-assisted processes.

3.7 Privacy and Data Protection

AI shall be used in compliance with applicable data protection laws and institutional policies. Personal data shall be collected, processed, stored, and shared only for legitimate purposes with appropriate safeguards.

3.8 Accountability

Users remain responsible for decisions made with AI assistance. Reliance on AI does not transfer legal, ethical, or professional accountability from the user to the technology.

3.9 Security and Resilience

AI systems shall be protected against unauthorized access, cyber threats, data poisoning, and misuse through appropriate technical and organisational measures.

3.10 Environmental Sustainability

The University shall consider the environmental impact of AI infrastructure and encourage energy-efficient computing, responsible procurement, and sustainable digital practices.

3.11 Responsible Innovation

The University shall foster AI research and innovation that addresses societal challenges, supports national development priorities, and contributes positively to the well-being of communities.

CHAPTER 4

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

4.1 Policy Statement

Rivers State University shall integrate Artificial Intelligence into teaching, learning, and assessment to improve educational quality, enhance student engagement, support personalized learning, and strengthen graduate competencies while preserving academic integrity and critical thinking. AI shall complement, and not replace the expertise of lecturers or the intellectual development of students.

4.2 AI in Curriculum Development

Each Faculty shall periodically review its curriculum to integrate AI-related competencies appropriate to its discipline. Accordingly, every undergraduate student shall receive foundational AI literacy through the GST courses. Examples include:

S/No College/Faculty	AI Applications
1 Administration & Management	Business Analytics
2 Agriculture	Precision Agriculture
3 College of Medical Sciences	Medical/Clinical Decision Support
4 Communication and Media Studies	Content Creation, Media Analysis
5 Education	Intelligent Tutoring Systems
6 Engineering	Machine Learning, Robotics, Predictive Maintenance
7 Environmental Sciences	Smart Cities
8 Humanities	Digital Humanities
9 Law	Legal Analytics
10 Medical Laboratory Science	Laboratory Testing and Diagnostics
11 Science	Data Analytics, Scientific Computing
12 Social Sciences	Informed Decisions Making

4.3 AI-Assisted Teaching

Academic staff may responsibly use AI to prepare lecture notes, develop presentations, generate tests & examinations, create simulations, translate educational materials, produce multimedia resources, support instructional design, summarize academic literature, generate illustrative examples.

All AI-generated teaching materials shall be reviewed by the lecturer before classroom use.

4.4 Personalized Learning

The University encourages the deployment of AI systems capable of adaptive and individualised learning, intelligent recommendation systems, learning analytics, automated feedback, and early identification of at-risk students.

Such systems shall always operate under human supervision.

4.5 Student Use of AI

Students may use approved AI tools for brainstorming ideas, literature review, language and grammar improvement, coding/ programming assistance, data visualization, research planning and design, statistical analysis.

Students shall not use AI to impersonate another student, generate complete assignments for submission without authorisation, cheat during examinations, fabricate research findings, falsify laboratory results, and manipulate assessment outcomes.

4.6 AI in Assessment

AI may support formative assessment, automated quizzes, marking of objective tests, feedback generation, plagiarism detection, and learning analytics.

Final grading responsibility shall remain with the lecturer.

4.7 AI Disclosure Requirements

Where AI has substantially assisted coursework, students shall disclose the AI tool used, purpose of use, extent of AI assistance, verification undertaken.

The University shall provide a standard AI Declaration Form.

4.8 Academic Integrity

The University maintains zero tolerance for AI-assisted academic misconduct.

Examples include: AI-generated dissertations presented as original work, fabricated references, AI-generated laboratory reports without experimentation, falsified research data, and examination malpractice involving AI devices.

Violations shall be treated under existing academic regulations.

4.9 Lecturer Responsibilities

Academic staff shall promote ethical AI use, explain acceptable AI practices, redesign assessments to encourage critical thinking, continuously update AI competencies, disclose AI use where appropriate, and protect confidential student information.

4.10 Accessibility and Inclusive Learning

AI shall be used to improve accessibility through speech-to-text, text-to-speech, automatic captioning, language translation and assistive technologies for students with disabilities.

CHAPTER 5

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

5.1 Policy Statement

The University encourages responsible AI use to enhance research quality, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, commercialization, and societal impact.

5.2 Objectives

The University shall increase research productivity, improve research quality, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, promote AI innovation, strengthen technology transfer, improve grant competitiveness.

5.3 AI-Assisted Research

Researchers may use AI for literature reviews, hypothesis generation, data cleaning, statistical analysis, predictive modelling, image analysis, simulation, coding, qualitative data analysis, and manuscript editing. Researchers remain responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all outputs.

5.4 Disclosure of AI Use

Research publications shall disclose significant AI assistance in data analysis, drafting, image generation, code generation, statistical modelling, and visualization. **Note:** AI systems shall not be listed as authors of scholarly publications.

5.5 Research Integrity

Researchers shall not use AI to fabricate data, falsify results, generate fictitious references, manipulate peer review, and misrepresent findings. Research misconduct involving AI shall be subject to disciplinary procedures.

5.6 AI Ethics Review

Projects involving AI shall undergo ethical review where they involve human participants, biometric information, healthcare data, educational records, facial recognition, surveillance, autonomous decision-making, and sensitive personal data.

5.7 Intellectual Property

Ownership of AI-generated intellectual property shall be determined in accordance with University Intellectual Property Policy, Nigerian copyright laws, contractual obligations, funding agreements. Human creators remain responsible for protecting intellectual property rights.

5.8 AI Innovation Ecosystem

The University shall establish: AI Innovation Hub/Centre, Research Computing Laboratory, AI Start-up Accelerator, and Technology Commercialization Office.

5.9 Priority Research Areas

Priority areas include healthcare, agriculture, energy, climate change, smart cities, cybersecurity, oil and gas, education technology, marine and offshore systems, environmental monitoring, public administration, and digital economy.

5.10 Partnerships

The University shall collaborate with industry, government, research institutes, development partners, international universities, and professional bodies.

5.11 Commercialisation

AI innovations developed within the University may be commercialised through patents, licensing, spin-off companies, consultancy services, incubation programmes, and public-private partnerships.

CHAPTER 6

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Policy Statement

The University shall deploy AI to improve efficiency, transparency, service delivery, and evidence-based decision-making across administrative functions.

6.2 Areas of Application

AI may be deployed in various University's Directorates/Units, including: admissions, registry, establishment, bursary, procurement, library services, security, student affairs, ICT help desk, alumni relations, physical planning, health services.

6.3 Admissions

AI may support applications processing, document verification, fraud detection, applicant enquiries, predictive enrolment analysis.

Admissions decisions shall remain subject to human approval.

6.4 Registry

AI may assist in transcript generation, records management, document classification, workflow automation, and archival retrieval.

6.5 Establishment

AI may support recruitment screening, staff development planning, workforce analytics, annual leave management, and performance reporting.

Employment decisions shall not rely solely on automated systems.

6.6 Bursary

AI may assist with budgeting, expenditure forecasting, fraud detection, financial analytics, and procurement monitoring.

6.7 Library Services

The University Library shall deploy AI for intelligent search, recommendation systems, digital repositories, metadata generation, and virtual reference services.

6.8 ICT Centre

The ICT Centre shall implement AI systems supporting institutional email assistance, password reset support, helpdesk automation, cybersecurity monitoring, network analytics, predictive maintenance, and system monitoring.

These are particularly relevant to improving service delivery and reducing response times for routine ICT support requests.

6.9 Student Services

AI may support Chabot services, counselling referrals, hostel allocation analytics, career guidance, graduation clearance, and alumni engagement.

6.10 Smart Campus

The University shall progressively implement AI-enabled smart campus technologies including intelligent surveillance, energy management, classroom scheduling, traffic management, environmental monitoring, and predictive maintenance.

6.11 Procurement of AI Systems

Before deployment, AI solutions shall undergo assessment for security, privacy, interoperability, legal compliance, accessibility, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness.

CHAPTER 7

DATA GOVERNANCE, PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY

7.1 Policy Statement

The University shall establish a comprehensive data governance framework to ensure that data used for AI systems is accurate, secure, lawful, ethical, and protected throughout its lifecycle.

7.2 Guiding Principles

Data used in AI shall be lawful, accurate, relevant, secure, transparent, accountable and minimally intrusive.

7.3 Data Classification

Institutional data shall be classified as public, internal, confidential, and highly confidential. Access controls shall correspond to these classifications.

7.4 Personal Data Protection

Processing of personal data shall comply with the Nigerian Data Protection Act (2023) and relevant institutional policies. Personal data shall be collected only for legitimate purposes and protected through appropriate technical and organizational measures.

7.5 Data Quality

AI systems shall use data that is accurate, complete, timely, representative, and free from unnecessary bias. Periodic data quality assessments shall be conducted.

7.6 Data Security

The ICT Centre shall implement safeguards including: encryption, multi-factor authentication, secure backups, network segmentation, intrusion detection, vulnerability assessments, incident response plans.

7.7 AI Security

AI systems shall undergo penetration testing, adversarial testing, bias evaluation, model validation, and periodic security audits.

7.8 Cloud Computing

Cloud-based AI services shall comply with institutional security requirements, protect University data, provide contractual assurances on privacy and availability, support disaster recovery and business continuity.

7.9 Data Sharing

Institutional data shall only be shared where legally permitted, contractually protected, ethically justified and approved by authorised University officials.

7.10 Data Retention and Disposal

Data shall be retained only for as long as necessary and securely disposed of in accordance with records management policies and applicable legal requirements.

7.11 Incident Reporting

Any suspected data breach, AI system compromise, unauthorized disclosure, cyberattack and misuse of AI, shall be reported immediately to the ICT Centre and the appropriate University authorities for investigation and response.

CHAPTER 8

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

8.1 Policy Statement

Rivers State University shall establish and maintain secure, resilient, scalable, and sustainable digital infrastructure to support AI in teaching, research, administration, innovation, and community engagement.

The University recognizes that effective AI adoption depends on reliable digital infrastructure, high-speed connectivity, advanced computing resources, quality data, and appropriate software platforms.

Consequently, the University shall establish enterprise AI infrastructure, provide high-performance computing resources, improve campus-wide internet connectivity, create AI laboratories and innovation spaces, strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure, support cloud-enabled AI services, and promote digital inclusion.

8.2 AI Infrastructure Components

- a) The University's AI ecosystem shall comprise:
- b) High-Performance Computing
- c) AI Laboratory
- d) AI Cloud Platform
- e) Institutional Data Repository
- f) Smart Learning Environment

8.3 Network Infrastructure

The University shall continually improve:

- a) Broadband Internet Connectivity
- b) Wireless Campus Coverage
- c) Fibre Optic Backbone
- d) Redundancy Mechanisms
- e) Internet Reliability.

Priority shall be given to facilities supporting teaching, research, and innovation.

8.4 Software Platforms

The University may procure or develop AI software supporting:

- a) Learning Management Systems
- b) Research Computing
- c) Enterprise Resource Planning

- d) Predictive Analytics
- e) Digital Libraries
- f) Virtual Assistants
- g) Administrative Automation.

Preference shall be given to interoperable, standards-based, secure, and cost-effective solutions.

8.5 Infrastructure Standards

AI infrastructure shall conform to institutional standards for:

- a) Availability
- b) Scalability
- c) Accessibility
- d) Interoperability
- e) Sustainability
- f) Maintainability
- g) Security.

8.6 Green Computing

The University shall promote environmentally sustainable computing through:

- a) Energy-Efficient Equipment
- b) Virtualization
- c) Cloud Optimization
- d) Responsible Electronic Waste Disposal
- e) Renewable Energy Integration Where Feasible.

8.7 Business Continuity

Critical AI services shall be protected through:

- a) Disaster Recovery Planning;
- b) Backup Data Centres;
- c) Cloud Redundancy;
- d) Periodic Disaster Recovery Testing;
- e) Business Continuity Procedures.

CHAPTER 9

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY

9.1 Policy Statement

Rivers State University shall promote AI literacy and digital competencies among staff and students through structured training, professional development, certification programmes, and continuous learning.

Successful AI adoption depends on people, not technology alone. Consequently, the University shall:

- a) Improve AI Awareness;
- b) Build Technical Competencies;
- c) Strengthen Ethical AI Knowledge;
- d) Support Lifelong Learning;
- e) Encourage Innovation;
- f) Prepare Graduates For Future Careers.

9.2 AI Literacy Framework

The University shall establish AI literacy framework for all staff and students. Topics will include, but not limited to:

- a) AI Concepts
- b) Responsible AI
- c) Prompt Engineering
- d) AI Ethics
- e) Digital Safety
- f) AI Productivity Tools
- g) Educational AI
- h) Research AI
- i) Data Analytics
- j) Automation.

9.3 Staff Development

The University shall organize workshops, seminars, certifications, conferences, webinars, and AI boot camps. Participation in AI-related professional development shall be recognized during performance appraisal and career advancement, where applicable.

9.4 Student Development

The University shall encourage AI clubs, hackathons, innovation competitions, coding boot camps, internships, and entrepreneurship programmes.

9.5 AI Champions Programme

Each Faculty and administrative unit shall nominate AI champions to support adoption, provide peer mentoring, identify opportunities, monitor implementation, and promote responsible AI use.

9.6 Digital Inclusion

The University shall ensure equitable access to AI resources by:

- a) Supporting students with disabilities
- b) Promoting gender inclusion
- c) Reducing digital inequalities
- d) Expanding access to digital devices and connectivity where feasible.

CHAPTER 10

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

10.1 Policy Statement

The successful implementation of this Policy requires a phased, coordinated, adequately funded, and continuously monitored institutional approach. Rivers State University shall adopt a structured implementation model that ensures responsible AI adoption across academic, research, administrative, and community engagement functions.

10.2 Institutional Responsibilities

Senate

The Senate shall approve the AI policy, all AI-related academic regulations, monitor AI integration into teaching, learning, and research, and review annual academic AI performance reports. It shall also provide strategic oversight, support resource mobilization, and receive annual implementation reports.

Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor shall champion institutional AI adoption, approve implementation plans, ensure adequate funding, and appoint the university AI steering committee.

ICT Centre

The ICT Centre shall serve as the coordinating implementation office and coordinate AI deployment, manage enterprise AI platforms, maintain AI infrastructure, provide technical support, conduct AI training, monitor institutional AI performance, and publish annual AI implementation reports.

Faculties and Departments

Each Faculty and Department shall develop annual AI implementation plans, integrate AI into teaching and research, monitor compliance, and nominate AI Champions.

10.3 Phased Implementation Roadmap

Phase I - Foundation (2026)

Key Activities:

- i. Constitute the University AI Governance/Steering Committee.
- ii. Approve the AI Policy.
- iii. Conduct institutional AI readiness assessment.
- iv. Launch AI awareness campaign.
- v. Develop AI governance guidelines.
- vi. Commence AI literacy training.
- vii. Deploy AI-powered ICT Help Desk.

Expected Outputs:

- i. Approved Policy
- ii. AI Governance/Steering Committee
- iii. Baseline AI Readiness Report
- iv. AI Awareness Programme

Phase II - Institutional Integration (2027-2028)**Key Activities:**

- i. Integrate AI into curricula.
- ii. Establish the AI Laboratory.
- iii. Deploy AI-assisted administrative systems.
- iv. Launch AI Innovation Hub.
- v. Introduce AI research grants.
- vi. Strengthen cybersecurity capabilities.
- vii. Expand cloud-based AI services.

Expected Outputs:

- i. AI-enabled courses
- ii. Functional AI Laboratory
- iii. AI-supported Registry, Library, and Finance services
- iv. Increased AI research projects

Phase III - Optimisation and Innovation (2029-2030)**Key Activities:**

- Establish High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility.
- Commercialise AI innovations.
- Expand international partnerships.
- Develop AI Centres of Excellence.
- Implement AI maturity assessments.
- Review and update the Policy.

Expected Outputs:

- AI Centre of Excellence
- Commercialised AI products
- International AI collaborations
- Revised AI Policy

10.4 Implementation Timeline

Year	Priority Activities
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2026	Governance, awareness, policy approval, AI literacy, pilot projects
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2027	Curriculum integration, AI laboratory, administrative AI systems
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2028	AI innovation hub, research grants, expanded AI services
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2029	HPC deployment, commercialisation, international partnerships
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2030	Institutional evaluation, policy review, scaling and optimisation
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CHAPTER 11

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

11.1 Policy Statement

The University shall establish a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to assess AI implementation, measure institutional impact, and ensure continuous improvement. The M&E framework shall:

- i. Monitor implementation progress.
- ii. Evaluate policy effectiveness.
- iii. Measure institutional impact.
- iv. Promote accountability.
- v. Support evidence-based decision-making.

11.2 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Teaching and Learning

- i. Percentage of AI-enabled courses.
- ii. Number of lecturers trained.
- iii. Student AI literacy rate.
- iv. Student satisfaction with AI-supported learning.

Research

- i. AI-related publications.
- ii. AI research grants secured.
- iii. Patents filed.
- iv. AI innovations commercialised.

Administration

- i. Number of AI-enabled administrative processes.
- ii. Average response time for ICT support.
- iii. Reduction in manual workflows.
- iv. User satisfaction levels.

Infrastructure

- i. Internet uptime.
- ii. AI laboratory utilisation.
- iii. Cloud service availability.
- iv. Cybersecurity incident response time.

Capacity Building

- i. Number of staff trained.
- ii. AI certifications obtained.
- iii. Faculty AI Champions appointed.
- iv. Professional development activities completed.

11.3 Monitoring Schedule

Activity	Frequency	Responsible Office
AI Infrastructure Audit	Annual	ICT Centre
AI Ethics Audit	Annual	AI Governance/Steering Committee
Academic AI Review	Annual	Senate
Policy Compliance Review	Annual	AI Governance/Steering Committee
Cybersecurity Audit	Quarterly	ICT Centre

11.4 Continuous Improvement

The University shall use evaluation findings to:

- i. Improve implementation strategies.
- ii. Update AI standards.
- iii. Revise operational guidelines.
- iv. Enhance institutional capacity.
- v. Inform budget planning.

CHAPTER 12

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

12.1 Policy Statement

All members of the University community shall comply with this Policy. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable University regulations and relevant laws.

12.2 Compliance Requirements

All users shall:

- i. Complete required AI awareness training where applicable.
- ii. Use approved AI systems responsibly.
- iii. Protect confidential information.
- iv. Disclose AI use where required.
- v. Respect intellectual property rights.
- vi. Adhere to ethical standards.

12.3 Prohibited Uses

The following are prohibited:

- i. Academic dishonesty through undisclosed AI use.
- ii. Fabrication of research data.
- iii. Generation of false institutional records.
- iv. Unauthorized access to AI systems.
- v. Deployment of unapproved AI applications handling sensitive institutional data.
- vi. Creation or dissemination of malicious AI-generated content.
- vii. Circumvention of University cybersecurity controls.

12.4 Investigation

Suspected violations shall be investigated by the AI Governance/Steering Committee where necessary. Investigations shall be fair, confidential, and conducted in accordance with due process.

12.5 Sanctions

Depending on the severity of the violation, sanctions may include:

Students

- i. Formal warning.
- ii. Resubmission of assessment.
- iii. Grade penalties.
- iv. Failure of course.
- v. Suspension.
- vi. Expulsion.
- vii. Retraction of academic research paper

Staff

- i. Written warning.
- ii. Mandatory retraining.
- iii. Withdrawal of system privileges.
- iv. Disciplinary proceedings.
- v. Suspension.
- vi. Dismissal, where warranted.

Contractors and Third Parties

- i. Contract termination.
- ii. Removal of system access.
- iii. Recovery of damages where applicable.
- iv. Legal action.

12.6 Appeals

Any person subject to sanctions may appeal through established University procedures. Appeals shall be determined fairly and within reasonable timelines.

12.7 Whistleblower Protection

Individuals who report AI-related misconduct in good faith shall be protected from retaliation in accordance with University policies.

CHAPTER 13

POLICY REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

13.1 Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed every five (5) years or earlier where:

- i. Legislation changes
- ii. Significant technological developments occur
- iii. NUC issues revised directives
- iv. University priorities change
- v. Implementation experience identifies necessary improvements.

13.2 Amendment Procedure

Proposed amendments may originate from:

- Senate
- Vice-Chancellor
- AI Governance/Steering Committee

Amendments shall become effective only after approval by Senate.

13.3 Interpretation

The ICT Centre, in consultation with the AI Governance/Steering Committee shall provide guidance on the interpretation and application of this Policy.

13.4 Effective Date

This Policy takes effect on **30th October 2025**, the date it was approved by Senate.