

RESEARCH & INNOVATION EXCELLENCE SERIES

- Transforming Academic Talent into Fundable Research, Impact, and Institutional Excellence -

1. The Challenges

- Universities are producing research, but not consistently delivering measurable impact.
- Across institutions, academics generate ideas, conduct studies, and produce outputs. Yet, many struggle to secure competitive funding, achieve high-impact publications, and translate research into industry adoption or commercialisation. Research efforts are often fragmented, proposals fall short of evaluation criteria, and valuable outputs do not progress beyond academic completion. Time and expertise are invested, but outcomes in grants, publications, and real-world impact remain inconsistent.
- The core issue is not academic talent — it is the absence of structured systems to convert research into funding, impact, and institutional value.

2. A Structured Approach to Close the Gap

- This programme integrates academic talent development with structured research, funding, and translational capability building.
- It strengthens the full research performance cycle, from problem identification and idea development to validation, communication, funding success, and impact delivery — enabling universities to move from fragmented efforts to strategic, outcome-driven research excellence.

3. A 3-Part Integrated Programme, Covering the Full Cycle from Research to Impact

- i. Innovation Sprint for Academia (3 Days)
Develop high-impact, fundable research ideas
- ii. Commercial Sprint for Academia (3 Days)
Translate research into industry-ready and adoptable solutions
- iii. Power Pitch & Deck Design for Academia (3 Days)
Communicate research clearly to secure funding, support, and approval

4. Why This Matters

- i. Improve grant success rates and funding acquisition outcomes
- ii. Increase publication quality, impact, and research visibility
- iii. Strengthen industry collaboration and translational research pathways
- iv. Enhance institutional performance, ranking, and global competitiveness
- v. Build a structured and sustainable research and innovation ecosystem

5. Key Take-Away

- This programme is not about producing more research — it is about producing research that secures funding, achieves publication, and delivers measurable impact.
- It provides a structured system to transform academic effort into fundable ideas, high-quality outputs, and real-world outcomes.
 - ✓ Increase Success in Grant Applications and Research Funding
 - ✓ Strengthen Publication Quality, Impact, and Research Visibility
 - ✓ Translate Research into Industry Collaboration and Real-World Impact



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"Strong research begins with the clarity of problems, not the volume of ideas."

INNOVATION SPRINT FOR ACADEMIA: GENERATING HIGH-IMPACT IDEAS FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

A 3-DAY HANDS-ON COURSE DESIGNED FOR Academics | Researchers | Postdoctoral Fellows | Research Fellows | Postgraduate Supervisors | RMC Staff | TTO Personnel | University Professionals

ASPIRATION / AIM

This 3-day course aims to strengthen institutional capability to systematically generate, refine, and prioritise fundable, high-impact research and innovation ideas using a 5-Step Integrative Framework. It focuses on improving problem clarity, structured ideation, and concept validation, enabling universities to develop research outputs aligned with real-world needs, funding priorities, and measurable impact.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop the ability to systematically generate, refine, and prioritise high-impact research and innovation ideas.

2. Strengthen alignment with grant funding criteria, publication standards, and national and international research priorities.

3. Build institutional capability to sustain structured ideation processes and develop a consistent pipeline of research and innovation outputs

COURSE CONTENT

DAY 1: Ideation Spectrum & Problem Divergence

Participants examine common limitations in research ideation and differentiate between symptoms and root problems. Structured exercises are used to systematically identify, analyse, and prioritise high-impact research challenges aligned with institutional and societal needs. A Problem Bank is developed to support focused and strategic idea generation.

DAY 2 : Problem Convergence & Idea Validation

Research problems are refined through structured convergence and validated for novelty, relevance, impact, and scalability. Ideas are systematically evaluated and prioritised using established frameworks, enabling participants to develop well-defined and fundable research concepts.

DAY 3 : Concept Funnelling & Crowning

Validated ideas are developed into coherent research and innovation concepts with clear feasibility, resource alignment, and strategic relevance. Concepts are refined through expert feedback and positioned for grant applications, industry engagement, and collaborative opportunities.

EXPECTED OUTCOME & IMPACT

1. Universities will generate well-validated research and innovation concepts with strong potential for funding, intellectual property development, and industry relevance.

2. Participants will develop structured, high-quality concepts aligned with national priorities, real-world needs, and institutional strategies.

3. Institutions will strengthen their capability to sustain a consistent pipeline of research and innovation outputs leading towards translational and commercialisation pathways.