



UNIVERSITY OF GITWE

STRATEGIC
RESEARCH &
INNOVATION
PLAN

2025-2030

Approved by:
The University Research and Innovation Board
Date: August 2025



Welcome Message from the Legal Representative of University of Gitwe.

It is with great pride and a deep sense of purpose that I welcome you to the University of Gitwe's Strategic Research and Innovation Plan for the period 2025–2030.

As Chancellor, I have witnessed the remarkable growth of this institution — from its strong foundation in health sciences and nursing education to its expansion into ICT, education, and beyond. Today, we stand at the threshold of a new era, one that demands vision, courage, and collaboration to generate solutions for the complex challenges facing Rwanda, Africa, and the world.

This Strategic Plan represents our collective aspiration to transform the University of Gitwe into a dynamic research hub — a place where inquiry is encouraged, innovation is nurtured, and impact is prioritized. It lays out a comprehensive framework to support research excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical engagement, and international partnerships.

We are especially proud to open our doors to global academic partnerships and to welcome visiting scholars, postdoctoral researchers, and innovation leaders from around the world. Their contributions, along with those of our dedicated local researchers and students, will advance knowledge, technology, and public policy that benefits both our immediate communities and broader humanity.

Let this Plan serve not only as a roadmap but also as a declaration: that the University of Gitwe is ready to lead, to serve, and to innovate boldly.

I extend my gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to this process — faculty, students, administrative staff, partners, and community members — for your unwavering commitment to our mission.

Together, let us build a future driven by knowledge, innovation, and purpose.

Sincerely,

RUSINE JOSUE

Legal Representative
University of Gitwe

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TRANSFORM

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Introduction

University of Gitwe is committed to pioneering a future-focused research and innovation ecosystem rooted in our institutional strengths in Health Sciences, Nursing, ICT, and Education. This Strategic Research and Innovation Plan (2025–2030) provides a comprehensive framework to guide the development, support, and sustainability of impactful research, knowledge production, and community engagement. The Plan aligns with national development goals and responds to regional and global challenges.

Vision and Mission

Vision:

To be a national and regional leader in transformative research and innovation.

Mission:

To generate impactful knowledge through research, foster innovation, and contribute to sustainable development through community-centered inquiry.

TRANSFORMATION

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance the institutional research culture and visibility.
- Build research capacity and talent across disciplines.
- Promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- Strengthen infrastructure and research support systems.
- Expand international and national research partnerships.
- Support evidence-based policy and community transformation.



Priority Thematic Areas

Health Sciences and Nursing

Promoting health innovation, disease prevention, maternal and child health, and public health policy research.

ICT and Digital Transformation

Enhancing research in data science, e-health, educational technology, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

Education and Pedagogical Research

Exploring curriculum development, inclusive education, and digital learning innovations.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Addressing climate adaptation, agroecology, and water management through research.

Community Health and Social Justice

Conducting research on equity, gender, disability, and access to healthcare in underserved populations.

Building Research Capacity

University of Gitwe shall invest in recruiting and mentoring researchers, creating a research-oriented academic environment, supporting postgraduate research programs, and offering workshops and fellowships for faculty and students to build sustainable research skills.

Infrastructure and Support Systems

The university will develop digital repositories, e-libraries, research labs, and ICT systems to support data collection, analysis, storage, and dissemination. Research administration and grant management units will be strengthened to ensure effective support.

Partnerships and Collaborations

University of Gitwe will actively engage in local, regional, and international research collaborations with universities, industries, health institutions, government agencies, and civil society organizations. These partnerships will promote knowledge exchange and co-creation of solutions to real-world challenges.

Research Ethics and Governance

A Research Ethics Committee will be strengthened to ensure all research complies with ethical standards. The university will implement clear policies on research integrity, intellectual property rights, data management, and community engagement.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Annual reviews will assess progress on set objectives using key performance indicators (KPIs) such as publications, funded projects, training programs, partnerships, and societal impact. Strategic adjustments will be made based on evaluation outcomes.

Contact Information

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International Visiting Professors and Global Research Engagement

The University of Gitwe recognizes the importance of global perspectives in fostering a robust research ecosystem. As part of its strategic research and innovation agenda, the university will host international visiting professors, postdoctoral fellows, and research scholars from across Africa, Europe, North America, Asia, and Oceania.

These scholars will participate in joint research projects, curriculum development, postgraduate student supervision, and public lectures. Their engagement will also support capacity building and introduce emerging global methodologies and technologies. Collaborations will focus on health sciences, nursing research, artificial intelligence, sustainable development, public health, and educational reform.

Annual research seminars and symposia will be co-hosted with visiting researchers to foster cross-cultural academic exchange and enhance Gitwe's visibility as a hub for scholarly innovation in East Africa.

Gitwe will also sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with universities and research institutions in Germany, Cameroon, South Africa, Pakistan, the United States, South Korea, and India to facilitate scholar exchange programs and joint funding applications.

Research Funding and Sustainability

University of Gitwe will expand access to national and international research funding by supporting faculty in grant writing, partnership development, and compliance with funder policies. The university will establish a Research Support Office to coordinate submissions to funding bodies such as the National Research Fund (Rwanda), African Academy of Sciences (AAS), European Union Horizon Europe, IDRC, and the World Bank.

Internal seed grants will also be provided to encourage innovative pilot studies that may lead to larger funded projects. Financial sustainability will be ensured by encouraging industry-supported research and multi-donor consortia.

Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Community Impact

Gitwe's innovation agenda includes the creation of a Research and Innovation Hub that will support student and faculty-led startups in health technologies, ICT, and educational tools. The Hub will provide mentorship, business incubation services, and pitch competitions.

The university will also launch community research labs and living labs in surrounding districts, supporting co-creation of solutions with local communities in agriculture, maternal and child health, and climate adaptation. These labs will be open to postgraduate student research, government collaboration, and development partners.



VISITING RESEARCHERS



PROF. NABIL, A. KHOURI

MD, MBBS, MSc. PhD, JMBC - Prof of Medicine and Anatomy, Jordan University of Science and Technology



Prof. LAW SIONG HOOK

Professor of Economics , Malaysia

Prof. LAW SIONG specializes in the following;

Financials Economics

- International Economics
- Applied Economics



Prof. Giles Collins

MD, MPH, MHCDS Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Oxford University UK

Prof. Giles Collins holds the following qualifications:

Undergraduate and Graduate Education:

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry University of Manchester, Master of Public Health University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Doctor of Medicine,

Harvard School of Public Health, Master of Health Care Delivery Science Dartmouth College.



PROF. JUAN LARRAIN, M.D

Professor, Department of Pediatrics Yale University.
Prof. Juan Larrain, is a Professor of Pediatrics at Yale University.

Prof. Juan Larrain holds the following qualifications:
B.A., Natural Sciences, The Johns Hopkins University (Graduated with General, M.D., Johns Hopkins University.

Scope of Clinical Practice:

1999 – present Pediatric Urgent Care, Yale Centre of Pediatric

(provides in-hospital pediatric urgent care and emergency services), 7500 patient visits per year, Director, Pediatric Urgent Care (1999 – present), Precept residents and medical students working in the Pediatric Urgent Care 90% FTE.



PROF. FAITH ANOLA, PH.D.

Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology

Dept. of Pediatrics, Neurology, Pharmacology and Otolaryngology
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Education:

Doctor of Medicine Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2001

Doctor of Philosophy Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2000



Norliza Ahmad (Assoc. Prof. Dr.) - Malaysia

MD (USM), M. Community Health (Family Health)(UKM), PhD (UPM)
Specialty: Public Health Medicine, Adolescent Health, Health Planning



RAHMAT DAPARI (ASSOC. PROF. DR.) - MALAYSIA

MD (UPM), OHD (NIOSH), MPH (UKM), DrPH (UKM)



Suhainizam Muhamad Saliluddin(Dr.) - Malaysia

MB,BCh,BAO (Ireland);MPH (Occupational Health) (UM)

Specialty: Public Health Medicine, Occupational Health, Environmental Health

Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya. Sri Lanka



Conclusion

The Strategic Research and Innovation Plan of the University of Gitwe (2025–2030) offers a roadmap to realize our institutional ambition of becoming a national research leader and a globally engaged knowledge center. It reflects our commitment to excellence, collaboration, sustainability, and community transformation. Through effective implementation, monitoring, and continued stakeholder engagement, this plan will empower Gitwe to address the grand challenges of our time and prepare the next generation of problem solvers.

Dr. RWANDEMA Joseph

Vice Chancellor

University of Gitwe



New International Partners for 2025



**JAWAHARLAL
NEHRU UNIVERSITY**



**KYUNG DONG
UNIVERSITY**
취/업/사/관/학/교 경동대학교



THE SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY

