



# **Socioeconomic Institute for Advanced Studies (SIAS)**

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*Pioneering Socioeconomic Solutions  
& Development by Multidisciplinary Holistic Academic Programs*

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## **SIAS Research Policy**

**April 2022**

<http://www.sias.rw/>

Building 16, KK19 Avenue, Niboyi Sector, Kicukiro District, Kigali City, Rwanda

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# **One- Background and Basis of SIAS Research Policy**

## **1.1 Introduction**

One of the main purposes of the Socioeconomic Institute for Advanced Studies (SIAS) is to carry out research in relevance to the specialities of the institution, including the challenges and the development of socioeconomic issues in Rwanda, East Africa and the rest of the world. As a multidisciplinary HLI, SIAS is expected to carry many unique studies that would help to make a leading institution in publications of high quality peer-review papers, case studies and textbook. Besides, the research would be a means to built bridges of collaboration with the different targeted community, other institutions in Rwanda and abroad to develop and enhance knowledge, and contribute to the promotion of national, regional and international socioeconomic development.

## **1.2 SIAS Mission and its Commitment to Research**

Abiding by the law No 010/2021 of 16/02/2021 & the Ministerial Order No 001/MINEDUC/2021 of 20/10/2021, SIAS has put the following mission points to achieve its purpose of existence and to flourish through its unique contribution to the world:

- To provide outstanding applied educational programs and research that mitigate the risks of a dynamic changing world.
- Creating and discovering opportunities that would improve the well-being of developing countries through education, research and projects.
- Development of distinguished multidisciplinary academic programs and research based projects.
- Preparing Postgraduate students that become actively engaged with their communities and with unique competence in addressing its challenges and solving its current and future demands through projects and research approaches.

In a nutshell, this means setting up an academic institute that brings postgraduates and encourages research that would explore the basis of socioeconomic problems and deal with them as opportunities for development.

## **1.3 SIAS Research Goals as per the Strategic & Business Plan**

As part of the outcome of the needs assessment and skills gaps in Rwanda and EAC, the need for bottom-up projects and research are very high and essential. The outcome of these studies show that SIAS can fill a gap in addressing comprehensive socioeconomic needs through research that help analyse and study socioeconomic challenges more deeply within the different communities.

The strategic plan shows that SIAS is focused on bringing unique contributions to 'Rwanda's innovation index' through research or professional projects and activities that would enhance the intellectual, cultural, and social well-being of the national, regional, and international communities. Research would be used also for the support for a well-established and reviewed curriculum. Therefore, SIAS is expected to participate in the discovery, transmission, preservation, and enhancement of holistic knowledge and the extension of the frontiers of socioeconomic research and bringing in unique solutions to the world through high-quality research and publications.

The role of the research is to complement and even pushes the academic arm of SIAS towards creating and discovering opportunities that would improve the well-being of developing countries through education, research and projects. Based on this *strategic intent*, SIAS puts forward the following statement: **“SIAS will be recognized as one of the best institutions in the world as regards socioeconomic, academic studies and research.”**

Using SIAS educational approaches that work on inspiring the faculty, the postgraduate students and international researchers that come from diverse multidisciplinary with passion to tackle world’s socioeconomic emerging challenges, the institution is expected to bring many creative and innovation approaches.

As it is targeted to be an international hub for socioeconomic studies and advancement, SIAS represents initiatives that foster interdisciplinary collaboration and multidisciplinary creative solutions that are going to be taught, researched and published from Rwanda.

as a postgraduate and research institution, the SIAS will have ‘multidisciplinary visiting professors and researchers’ that would join the offered programs modules and/or utilize the educational and research platforms to internationalize SIAS reach, besides consistently bringing well the intended program and module learning and research outcomes.

## **2.0 SIAS Research Scope & Areas of Focus**

Due to already fast-developing global network that links scientists, scholars, researchers, practitioners and consultants throughout the different disciplines to bring socioeconomic solutions, SIAS is set to lead in research in the following speciality areas:

- **Inspiration Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Resilience Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Behavioural Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Community Development (MSc & PhD)**
- **Behavioural Neuroscience (MSc & PhD)**
- **Future Foresight Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Aging Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Youth Economy (MSc & PhD)**
- **Poverty Elimination Program (PhD by research)**
- **Women Development Program (PhD by research)**

To ensure that these research scope areas stay of focus for SIAS and make it a leading HLI, research centre and a ‘think tank’, SIAS shall bring innovative ways in research that shows the power of the new multidisciplinary economic and social sciences in addressing world’s demanding problems. SIAS shall undertake high-quality research; maintain and develop library collections and services; develop digital resources; publish journals and book series; host visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows from within Rwanda, or Africa Region or Internationally.

To support its areas of research focus, SIAS would organise a range of academic events, project trips, research proposals and initiatives, workshops, conferences,

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seminars and lectures, to spread its new multidisciplinary concepts and approach, capitalising on its field projects and research-driven faculty, postgraduate students, and the culture of its doctoral programmes.

The SIAS programs would depend on multidisciplinary staff that create and deliver teaching, research and services that would ensure the institute's effectiveness, efficiency, availability and continuity. Large network of relations and representations in different communities of the world, which would work as 'live research labs' that solve socio-economic issues and make them accessible to applied researchers.

### **3.0 SIAS Research and Projects Reach Approach**

SIAS focus on communities' impact-driven projects and then publishing a well-established research about th, SIAS would start projects with leading socioeconomic development NGOs and community leaders such as Rwandan Women Network; and is gradually expanding its network in Rwanda and East Africa. The main projects of SIAS would extend to different satellite centres in at least 6 African countries. The target is to make SIAS research outreach as a role model for socioeconomic research and a showcase of its impact on the development of the Rwandan and African communities.

This research outreach goal requires building several partnerships with international humanitarian and academic institutions, studies and research centres, and funding funds.

### **4.0 Potential Sponsors for SIAS Research Projects**

Major international and national humanitarian agencies such as World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women, Save the Children, WHO, Human Relief Agencies, African Development Bank, etc., are all potential sponsors of the SIAS research projects and programs. But, SIAS expects that this would be more possible after the first two years or after the graduation of any of SIAS programs first cohort. The earliest sponsors expected would be large NGO's, private companies known to support 'Social Entrepreneurship' programs and hopefully companies who are convinced in research in socioeconomic development. Depending on the collaboration agreement with the sponsors, SIAS might help in sponsoring students from countries or communities that would benefit most from its programs too.

### **5.0 Development of SIAS Knowledge & Research Good Well Value**

SIAS research projects are expected to have many publications that raise the rating of the institute and help the faculty and the students to appreciate their research capacity. Therefore, SIAS expects to play a great role in the research output of Rwandan Higher Learning Institutions, with particular focus on research of relevance and potential application in the Western Province. SIAS and over the first three from its accreditation is expected to have a full research team and infrastructure with the continuous support of the DVC (Academic & Research).

SIAS realise the value of the growth in the knowledge base and the key role of the institution in supporting the research by which this will be achieved. Not only that, but SIAS would ensure that effective application of research outcome on the socioeconomic development of specific communities and regions of focus.

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## **6.0 SIAS Research Support Infrastructure**

SIAS have provided adequate ICT and library infrastructure to enable research by staff and students. All SIAS faculty are expected to be active in research and will be expected to remain active. These faculty can demonstrate their research activity by publications, presentations, funded projects, and completion of higher level qualifications.

SIAS active research will ensure that the research outcome is incorporated in the postgraduate teaching programs. All the faculty will ensure that their teaching is up-to-date and consistent with latest research outcomes and case studies.

The SIAS research activity outreach will be monitored on an bi-annual basis and featured in the annual report. Research methods teaching will be given to all SIAS students with clear examples include a dissertation with a research component. Staff and student research conducted will be of the highest standards. Ethical clearance for staff and student projects will be reviewed by SIAS DVC (Academic & Research).

The DVC (Academic & Research) would ensure the proper funding for the fieldwork, where suitable transportation, equipment, conferences and presentation of outcomes. Opportunities for external funding of research will be sources by the Vice-Chancellor and his deputies. The institution will provide the resources to make bids for external funding which have a reasonable chance of success, as determined by the Vice-Chancellor.

## VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	1
Prepared by	Dr. Mohamed Buhijji
Version Reference number	SP/27/2022
Description	SIAS Research Policy
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Approved by	SIAS Governance Board
Date of approval & Update	18/12/2022 and 1/4/2023
Amendments	0
Proposed Review date	2024
Web address of this policy	<a href="http://www.sias.rw/">http://www.sias.rw/</a>

## APPROVAL FORM

**Checked by:**

**Signature:**



**DR. Donya Ahmed**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**Socioeconomic Institute for Advanced Studies**

**Approved by:**

**Signature:**



**DR. Mohamed Buhijji**  
**Founder & Chairman of the Board of Trustees**  
**Socioeconomic Institute for Advanced Studies**

