OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
NORTH LAKHIMPUR UNIVERSITY
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Ref No: NLU/CE/2026/1252 *Date:.16 -10-2026*

Notification

Policy for Community Engagement - 2026

Pursuant to the resolutions of the 1st meeting of the Executive Council vide **No. 3(A)** dated 30/09/2026, the undersigned is pleased to notify the **Policy for Community Engagement - 2026.**

The said **Policy** shall come into effect immediately.

Registrar
North Lakhimpur University

Memo No: NLU/CE/2026/1251 (A) Date: 16/10/2026

Copy to-

1) Dean, Research and Development
2) Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
3) Dean (i/c), Faculty of Science and Technology
4) Dean, Student Welfare
5) Head, All Departments
6) PA to the Vice-Chancellor
7) Website Administrator with a request to upload to the website
8) Office file

Registrar
North Lakhimpur University
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North Lakhimpur University
Lakhimpur, Assam

Policy for Community Engagement- 2026



North Lakhimpur University

Lakhimpur, Assam- 787031

Approved by

The Executive Council, North Lakhimpur University

Date: - 30-09-2026.

Resolution No. 3(A)

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North Lakhimpur University
Lakhimpur, Assam

POLICY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR UNIVERSITY

1. Introduction

Community engagement is a vital part of higher education, fostering social responsibility, experiential learning, and holistic development. This policy outlines the framework for integrating community engagement into the curriculum of North Lakhimpur University, ensuring meaningful student participation in social development initiatives.

2. Objectives

- To integrate community engagement into academic learning through coursework, research, and practical projects.
- To foster a sense of social responsibility and ethical citizenship among students.
- To establish partnerships between North Lakhimpur University and local communities for sustainable development.
- To create avenues for experiential learning and interdisciplinary approaches to solving societal challenges.
- To develop a portal for community service

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3. Scope

This policy applies to all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by North Lakhimpur University. It includes academic coursework, research projects, fieldwork, internships, and extracurricular activities related to community engagement.

4. Curriculum Integration

4.1 Community Engagement Courses

- Every teaching Department must introduce **credit-based community engagement course** in all Undergraduate/Postgraduate programmes.
- Courses should cover topics like civic responsibility, social work, environmental sustainability, rural/urban development, etc.
- Assessment should include field reports, case studies, project presentations, and viva-voce.

4.2 Service-Learning Modules

- Faculty members should design service-learning components linked to existing courses in their respective disciplines.
- Students should collaborate with NGOs, government agencies, and local communities to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems.

4.3 Research and Innovation for Community Development

- Encourage students to conduct research on socio-economic issues, public health, rural development, language and culture preservation, and environmental sustainability.
- Facilitate interdisciplinary research projects addressing community challenges, with potential funding from government and private institutions.

5. Implementation Framework

5.1 Institutional Support

- North Lakhimpur University shall establish a **Community Engagement Cell (CEC)** to coordinate and oversee engagement activities.
- Each teaching Department shall have a designated **Faculty Coordinator** to integrate community engagement into the curriculum.

5.2 Partnerships and Collaborations

- North Lakhimpur University shall collaborate with **Panchayati Raj Institutions, local self-governments, public sector undertakings, NGOs, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes**.
- Encourage joint initiatives like rural immersion programs, awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy projects.

5.3 Funding and Resources

- North Lakhimpur University shall seek financial support from **UGC, AICTE, CSR initiatives, Unnat Bharat Abhijan (UBA) and other government recognised bodies/ agencies/ organisations etc.** for community projects.
- Establish **community research funds** for faculty and students to undertake impactful studies.

6. Forms of Community Engagement

(As per Clause 1.4 of UGC Revised final Guidelines for Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement in Higher Education institutions in India 2.0)

The Department can choose any combination of the following forms:

a) Linking learning with community service

In this approach, students and teachers apply their knowledge and skills in a chosen community to improve the lives of people in that community. This can be achieved through the model of 'service-learning' (a globally accepted best practice), providing engagement opportunities to students from various disciplines and courses to apply their knowledge to address the challenges of a specific community. For example, students of chemistry can conduct water and soil testing in local areas and share the results with local community.

b) Linking research with community knowledge

In this approach, various faculties can devise joint research projects in partnership with the communities and local agencies. The community's own knowledge is integrated into the design and conduct of the research. New research by students helps them to complete their academic requirements, and at the same time the community's knowledge is systematized. Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR) approaches are gaining

increasing recognition in this regard. For example, Students of Chemistry can undertake research in partnership with community on solid and liquid waste disposal.

c) Knowledge sharing and knowledge mobilization

The knowledge available with students and teachers in various disciplines is made available to the local community to realize its developmental aspirations, secure its entitlements and access its benefits from various agencies and schemes. These can take the forms of enumerations, surveys, awareness camps and campaigns, trainings, learning manuals/films, maps, study reports, public hearings, policy briefs, cleanliness & hygiene teachings, legal aid clinics, etc. For example, students can undertake nutrition survey for mothers and children, and educate them about hygiene and nutrition.

d) Devising new curriculum and courses

Departments can develop new curricula in existing courses as well as design new courses to engage with community. This enriches the curriculum of existing courses through locally-appropriate subject-matter. It also creates new locally appropriate educational programmes that interest new generation of students. For example, new courses on financial inclusion, entrepreneurship development and nutritional value of local produce can improve knowledge and business opportunities for students.

e) Including practitioners as teachers

Local community elders, women leaders, tribals, entrepreneurs and civil society practitioners have enormous practical knowledge of a wide variety of issues—from agriculture and forestry to child-rearing, micro-planning, water-harvesting and project management. This expertise can be tapped by inviting such practitioners to co-teach courses both in the classrooms and in the field. Such instructors should be duly recognized, compensated and respected for their practical experience and knowledge.

f) Social innovations by students

The students can be encouraged to initiate learning projects with a social impact and supported by the university. Incubation of such social innovation projects by students can also have meaningful links to existing curriculum and courses.

g) Apart from the above- mentioned forms of community engagement, the Departments can also choose from the following broad areas of Community Engagement:

(1) Environmental Awareness

(2) Educating

(3) Empowering women

(4) Rural Development and Livelihoods

(5) Youth Programmes

(6) Climate, Water and Disaster Management

(7) Mental Health and Hazard

(8) Cultural and Archaeological Heritage

(9) ICT Awareness

(10) Indian Knowledge Systems

(11) Plants and Livestock Management

(12) Urban Planning

7. Implementation and Assessment Modalities

7.1 The syllabus for the course on Community Engagement must be framed by the concerned Board of Studies, and approved by the Academic Council of the University.

7.2 The course components may be divided into theory and community interaction, with more focus on interaction and proportionate credit distribution.

7.3 The student's participation and progress in Community Engagement must be monitored by their respective mentors and supervised by the head of the Department.

7.4 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

A. Community Engagement Activities can be assessed as per the following:

1. **Credit:** As per the National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF) and Curriculum and Credit Framework for Graduate/Postgraduate Programmes, North Lakhimpur University allocates 2/4 credits for Community Engagement Course for UG/ PG programmes. The concerned Departments may design their syllabus by incorporating Theory, Field-Work and Project with proportionate credit - hour distribution (1 credit Theory= 15 hours and 1 credit Fieldwork/Project= 30 hours).

2. **Mentoring Methods;**

The suggested teaching & learning Methods for the departments are

- On-line Mode
- Classroom discussion
- Participatory Research Methods & Tools
- Observation

B. The assessment of community engagement activities for undergraduate and postgraduate students shall primarily focus on evaluating the extent of student participation and its positive impact on the community. It shall also examine the application of academic knowledge to real-world challenges, the development of critical thinking and social responsibility skills, and the integration of local needs through collaborative approaches with community members.

Key Concepts of Assessment:

i. The concerned Department shall assess the student's performance using the Departmental Assessment methods.

ii. The students shall undergo evaluation through a Project Report and presentation on the basis of detailed documents of project (planning, implications outcome and reflection) conducted at North Lakhimpur University. Marks will be awarded by a panel of experts (external/internal) including the Supervisor to be decided by the departments.

iii. The students shall be assessed through a presentation of Report or Viva-Voce by a committee comprising an internal and external experts. Evaluation will focus on the following aspects:

a. Quality and format of the report writing
b. Acquisition of skills through presentation
c. Assessment of originality and innovative contribution
d. Significance of the research outcomes
e. Attendance Record, etc.

8. Ethics and Compliance

- Students and faculty must adhere to ethical guidelines while engaging with communities, ensuring **cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, and confidentiality**.

- Any violations of ethical conduct in community engagement may lead to disciplinary action

9. Policy Review

The above policy shall be subject to periodic review and revision in response to any modifications in the institutional framework, regulatory requirements, or emerging organizational needs. Any necessary amendments, including the inclusion of new provisions or the removal of obsolete clauses, will be made to ensure continued relevance, effectiveness, and compliance. Such revisions shall be undertaken as circumstances dictate, ensuring that the policy remains aligned with evolving institutional objectives and best practices.

10. Conclusion

This policy aims to embed community engagement as an integral part of UG and PG Programmes of the university, ensuring that students contribute to societal well-being while gaining hands-on learning experiences. By integrating these principles into the curriculum, North Lakhimpur University aspires to produce socially responsible graduates committed to nation-building and sustainable development.

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