Lifelong Learning Policy

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Maldives National University (MNU) affirms its strategic commitment to Lifelong Learning as a foundational pillar for individual empowerment and national development. This policy aligns with the mission of MNU in developing and disseminating knowledge.

In response to the evolving global landscape shaped by technological advancement and sustainability imperatives, this policy outlines MNU's dedication to providing inclusive, flexible, and future-oriented educational pathways. These pathways aim to equip learners with the competencies required to engage with the evolving global changes and contribute meaningfully to the community.

2. Policy Statement

MNU shall maintain a comprehensive Lifelong Learning initiatives and practices that support continuous personal, professional, and civic development. The University is committed to delivering high-quality, accessible, and responsive learning opportunities that integrate technological innovation and sustainable practices for the community.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Lifelong Learning initiatives across the University and encompasses, the following, but is not limited to:

- Non-degree and continuous professional development courses.
- Public lectures, workshops, and community outreach education.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Flexible entry pathways for non-traditional learners.

4. Policy Principles

The implementation of this policy shall be guided by the following principles:

a) Inclusivity and Equity

Ensure universal access to Lifelong Learning opportunities, with particular attention to disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. This shall be achieved through adaptable and digitally facilitated learning pathways.

b) Lifelong Learning Provision

Develop and deliver a diverse portfolio of formal and non-formal Lifelong Learning programmes that respond to evolving societal, technological, and economic needs. These offerings shall support continuous development across all life stages and be delivered through flexible modalities to ensure broad accessibility and relevance.

c) Quality and Relevance

Maintain rigorous academic and operational standards in alignment with national and international benchmarks. Curricula shall be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect technological advancements and sustainability priorities.

d) Recognition and Portability

Implement transparent mechanisms for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and endorse micro-credentials to validate competencies acquired through diverse learning experiences.

e) Community Engagement

Promote Lifelong Learning as a public good through outreach initiatives that advance lifelong learning skills, sustainable practices, and community empowerment. These efforts shall be conducted in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

f) Research and Innovation

Support scholarly inquiry into Lifelong Learning, emerging technologies, and sustainable development to inform institutional practices and policy evolution to contribute as a global citizen.

g) Collaboration and Partnership

Strengthen strategic partnerships with governmental bodies, industry stakeholders, and professional organizations. These collaborations aim to co-create impactful Lifelong Learning opportunities that foster innovation and economic diversification.

5. Policy Implementation

Effective implementation of this policy shall involve the following components:

a) Institutional Responsibility

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) shall provide strategic leadership in the implementation of this policy. Faculties and centres shall oversee programme development and delivery, implementation and impact.

b) Programme Development and Delivery

Programmes should incorporate forward-looking content and pedagogies. These shall be delivered through contemporary pedagogies such as using technology and flexible learning platforms.

c) ***Quality Assurance and Review***

Lifelong Learning offerings shall be subject to systematic monitoring and evaluation as per MNU policies. This shall include but is not limited to metrics for MNU's internal quality assurance framework, technological integration and sustainability, informed by stakeholder and industry feedback.

d) ***Capacity Building***

Continuous professional development shall be provided for MNU's academic and administrative staff for implementation of this policy. Training shall focus on contemporary digital tools, emerging educational technologies, data analytics for impact measuring, and sustainable curriculum designing.

e) ***Resource Allocation***

Strategic investment shall be directed toward ensuring availability of resources required to implement this policy and its associated initiatives.

f) ***Communication and Outreach***

Lifelong Learning opportunities shall be actively promoted through all platforms including digital platforms. Emphasis shall be placed on programmes addressing technological and sustainable development priorities.

g) ***Monitoring and Reporting***

Progress shall be tracked through key performance indicators and stakeholder input. An annual review shall be conducted to ensure alignment with evolving global trends and national priorities.

6. Responsibilities

Unit/Individual	Responsibilities
Academic Senate	Approval and oversight of the LLL Policy and its strategic direction.
Deputy Vice-chancellor (Academic Affairs)	Overall responsibility for strategic implementation and resource allocation for LLL.
Registrar/Student Support Services	Manage enrolment, records, RPL/Credit transfer, and data collection.
PQCU	Quality assurance of LLL activities and initiatives
Faculties/Centres/Schools	Design, delivery and quality assurance of LLL courses related to the faculty/centre and conduct relevant research.

Individual Academic Staff	Integrate LLL principles into teaching establish outreach mechanisms to support adult learners and provide data to measure impact.

7. Definitions and Key Terms

- **Lifelong Learning (LLL):** A continuous, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for personal or professional development throughout life.
- **Formal Learning**: Structured learning within an accredited institution leading to recognised qualifications.
- **Non-Formal Learning**: Structured learning outside formal education, e.g., short courses, workshops, community education.
- **Informal Learning:** Unstructured, experiential learning through work, family, or leisure activities.
- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**: A formal process assessing and recognising prior learning for credit or entry into qualification programmes.
- **Community Education/ Outreach activities**: Educational activities and initiatives designed to engage and empower members of the community, promoting social inclusion, personal development, and civic participation.

8. Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed at least every five years, or more frequently when necessary.

Academic Senate Submission Date: 1 December 2025 (Following approval at MNU Heads meeting)

Academic Senate Approval Date: 1 February 2026

Policy Effective Date: 1 February 2026