

PROTESTANT INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (PIASS)



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PIASS STUDENT HANDBOOK POLICY

PIASS BACK GROUND

Welcome to a place of opportunity and growth. We know you are ready to reach them main dream of your life through the passions and pursuits programmes of your interest. You are here for a purpose, and we want to prepare you for your unique growth both in competence and skills that would impact you and the society. We will equip you with education through the programme of your choice, spiritual support, and necessary skills to do what you love while encountering great experience and opportunity that PIASS will provide to you during the stay at PIASS.

Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PUR) is an officially chartered High Learning Institution. It was founded and owned by Protestant churches of Rwanda in 2009 – as a follower of Faculté de Théologie Protestante de Butare (FTPB) created in 1991. The establishment of PUASS came for the purpose of aligning the effort of Protestant Churches to the Government strategy in developing economic self-reliant and reaching the level of middle income country by enabling/equipping Rwandan society facing new challenges related to economic and social development in the globalizing world, mainly through education, human capital development and promotion of innovative culture and socio-economic development.

PIASS Philosophy

PUR holds the view that faith and science are indispensable drivers for any society to survive, harness ethical obligation of people and creatively improve the socio-economic environment in which they can survive and realize their full potential. This can not only but mainly be achieved through a properly designed educational and scientific package through which everyone can rightfully experience and acquire the tools to embark on endeavour.

PIASS Vision

“To be a reference university, fostering knowledge development and research

that is relevant for the society and inspired by Christian ethics and values.”

PIASS Mission

“To provide to Rwandan Society and Churches well trained personnel who are inquisitive, solution oriented, committed and equipped with intellectual tools that enable them to meeting specific needs of societies that are moving to a global, modern and pluralistic world.”

PIASS Moto

“Fides et Scientia” “Faith and Science for life”

PIASS Objectives

PIASS as Higher Learning Institution has the following objectives:

- To develop practical and applicable knowledge in social as well as economic development
- To impart a high quality teaching, enabling creation of jobs, proves relevant to communities, is close to reality, helpful for the society at large.
- To contribute to the positive transformation of society using short training, research, consultancy and projects and respect to ethical dimension.
- To contribute to local and national sustainable development by promoting scientific and technological research as well as research for integrated development

Core Values

Action of PIASS is based on principles and values. As a Christian institution, it is oriented towards:

Liberation: as the Gospel of Christ liberates from all human alienations here and now, bearing witness to it cannot go without running social dialogue with the society and serving the poor.

Relevance: higher education plays a key role in construction and development of a just, equitable and stable society through the training of committed, responsible and professionally competent citizens.

Unity in Diversity: open and respectful exchange of ideas along with evidence based documentation is essential to higher education contribution to a pluralistic society.

Effectiveness and efficiency: finding out the optimal and cost effective way to reach objectives, in changing environment and limitation of resources and keeps on being result and solution oriented.

Quality: training, research and services to the community must be competitive both nationally and internationally.

Innovation: teaching and learning processes are considering changing needs of churches and society and therefore programs are continually assessed and improved accordingly in a spirit of creativity and entrepreneurship at all levels.

Responsibility: teachers, students and administrative staff, to achieve their job, are expected to take decision, take upon their choices, delegate and report openly.

Solidarity: promoting a gender balanced culture and stressing on the needs of disadvantaged groups

Collaboration: fostering team spirit and looking for win-win partnerships with other institutions of higher learning.

Transparency: managing resources of the institution in a rigorous and transparent manner.

Good Governance: fairness, equity without discrimination, clear delegation and decentralization are adopted at all levels of the institution.

Student Rights and Responsibility

Students enjoy the basic rights as indicated below and are bound by the same responsibilities to respect the rights of others as is true for all citizens. However, by virtue of their enrolment in PIASS, students are obligated to abide by the policies and regulations of the university. The university is responsible for enforcing its policies fairly and with equitable procedures. It is the responsibility of each student to know the policies and procedures contained in this Student handbook.

CAMPUS SERVICES AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

Academic Coaching: For free help with study strategies, tutoring, academic accommodations, or time management, the Center for language improvement (multimedia centre) for Student Success staff will help you get on track for a successful semester.

MAKING CHOICES AS A STUDENT AT PIASS

We desire to empower students to discover their talents through not only classroom learning but students clubs and different formal non-formal trainings (keep your eyes open) and lifestyles. The reality of campus life, both on and off campus, is that we make small decisions every day that move us either closer to or farther away from dreams. Our goal is to be self-disciplined and to hold each other accountable in our student lifestyle. As such, PIASS reserves the right to provide counsel and/or discipline to students who, in the University's sole judgment, do not follow the stated policies of student conduct or the expressed principles and expectations of the University.

SOCIAL, ACADEMIC, AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY

Integrity: Students are expected to maintain high levels of academic honesty. Submitting someone else's work as your own (without proper citations, identifying particular research, copying, etc.), or otherwise cheating is dishonest and is not congruent with PIASS values and academic values

Physical Aggression/Assault: Pushing, striking, or physically assaulting another person is prohibited. The University reserves the right to review alleged incidents of self-defence, in light of physical aggression. Activities that could be interpreted as degrading to others or potentially endanger individuals, or property are prohibited.

Respectful Behaviour: We expect all community members to show respect to each other. Conduct that is disrespectful or intentionally disruptive is unacceptable. When a student or guest exhibits behaviours that cause concern or could be considered a threat to others or to University property,

Students have a right to ask questions, seek information and assistance, or to express dissent in a respectful way that maintains dignity and rights of others in the educational community.

Outreach and Service: PIASS as a community, encourages students to be involved in outreach, missions, and service through though different programmes. We partner with many local and national non-profit groups, keep your eye for any opportunity that PIASS will post regarding that, and ask for advice in your department

SAFETY STANDARDS

PIASS environment in general is safe but you are required to be responsible and watchful for any possible harm. University enjoys relative safety that is enhanced by professionally trained and equipped security officers who maintain surveillance of the campus 24 hours per day, every day. You are required however to keep your staff in a safe environment for your own personal interest.

Because cases are often complex due to unique circumstances of individuals involved, the process attempts to be redemptive, within the structure of the University. Thus, disciplinary decisions may not always appear "fair" or "consistent" to those outside of the process. Development of students' personal integrity is the primary goal and corrective measures are intended to help students be responsible and contributing community members.

Suspension may include, where a student found in crimes are either suspended for a period of time or complete separation from the University. Suspension may be for one semester, one year, or longer depending on the severity of the behaviour.

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: Violations may include but are not limited to:

- Any form of falsification of information.
- Cheating or colluding on any assignment, quiz or project.
- Incidents of blatant plagiarism on any assignment, paper, or project (including oral reports, presentations, and online discussions).