INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS)
(Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
PALLAVARAM, THALAMBUR, PERIYAPALAYAM-CHENNAI
ACCREDITED BY NAAC WITH A++ GRADE

ANNUAL REPORT

University Ethical Committee (Non-Research)

Academic Year 2024–2025

1. Introduction

The University Ethical Committee (Non-Research) of Vels Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) functions as an institutional body dedicated to promoting ethical governance, integrity, accountability, transparency, and responsible institutional practices across academic and administrative activities. During the Academic Year 2024–2025, the Committee successfully conducted twelve monthly meetings in accordance with the approved annual action plan.

The Committee focused on strengthening institutional ethics by integrating quality assurance practices with national and international accreditation frameworks, including NAAC, NIRF, IQAC, Outcome-Based Education (OBE), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and QS World University Rankings. Through systematic planning, implementation, monitoring, and review, the Committee contributed significantly to enhancing ethical awareness, institutional governance, stakeholder participation, and continuous quality improvement.

2. Objectives of the Committee

The University Ethical Committee aimed to:

- Promote ethical governance across academic and administrative functions.
- Strengthen professional ethics, academic integrity, and institutional transparency.
- Enhance faculty competency and student development.
- Ensure compliance with institutional policies, statutory regulations, and quality standards.
- Foster a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment.

- Promote environmental responsibility, digital ethics, community engagement, and institutional social responsibility.
- Support continuous institutional improvement through systematic monitoring and documentation.

Month	Activity
July 2024	Committee Constitution and Ethical Governance
August 2024	Faculty Development and Academic Excellence
September 2024	Student Employability and Skill Development
October 2024	Academic Monitoring and Mentor–Mentee System
November 2024	Student Welfare and Grievance Redressal
December 2024	Campus Safety and Risk Management
January 2025	Academic Ethics and Integrity
February 2025	Gender Equality and Student Wellbeing
March 2025	Digital Ethics and Cyber Security
April 2025	Environmental Sustainability
May 2025	Community Engagement and Institutional Social Responsibility
June 2025	Annual Performance Review

3. Committee Activities During the Academic Year

The Committee conducted **twelve monthly meetings**, each focusing on a specific institutional theme aligned with the Annual Action Plan.

July 2024 – Committee Constitution and Ethical Governance

The first meeting established the University Ethical Committee (Non-Research), adopted the University Code of Ethics, approved the Annual Action Plan, and defined member

responsibilities. Emphasis was placed on ethical governance, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, institutional values, and documentation practices.

August 2024 – Faculty Development and Academic Excellence

The Committee reviewed Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), Faculty Improvement Programmes (FIPs), professional ethics, publication ethics, intellectual property rights, faculty competency enhancement, digital pedagogy, Outcome-Based Education, and faculty leadership initiatives. Recommendations emphasized professional competency, innovative teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, leadership, and continuous professional development.

September 2024 – Student Employability and Skill Development

The Committee reviewed student employability enhancement programmes, internship professionalism, entrepreneurship development, placement training, value-added courses, industry collaborations, innovation activities, and certification programmes. Strategies were developed to strengthen graduate employability and industry readiness.

October 2024 – Academic Monitoring and Mentor–Mentee System

The Committee evaluated the effectiveness of the Class Committee System and Mentor–Mentee Programme. Student attendance, Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA), academic progression, counselling, bridge courses, remedial coaching, student feedback, and mentoring records were reviewed. Departments were advised to strengthen academic monitoring and documentation.

November 2024 – Student Welfare and Grievance Redressal

The Committee assessed the Online Grievance Redressal System, student satisfaction surveys, counselling services, Equal Opportunity initiatives, and student welfare programmes. Recommendations focused on timely grievance resolution, transparency, accountability, and strengthening institutional responsiveness.

December 2024 – Campus Safety and Risk Management

The Committee reviewed laboratory safety audits, fire safety measures, disaster management plans, biomedical waste management, electrical safety, occupational health and safety (OHS),

emergency preparedness, and environmental compliance. Periodic safety audits and awareness programmes were recommended.

January 2025 – Academic Ethics and Integrity

The Committee evaluated the implementation of the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Discussions focused on academic integrity, examination ethics, anti-plagiarism practices, responsible academic writing, and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Institutional guidelines for AI ethics and academic integrity were proposed.

February 2025 – Gender Equality and Student Wellbeing

The Committee reviewed Gender Equality initiatives, Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), Anti-Ragging mechanisms, counselling services, mental health support, Human Values, constitutional values, inclusiveness, accessibility, and student welfare programmes. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive campus.

March 2025 – Digital Ethics and Cyber Security

The Committee discussed Digital Ethics, cyber security awareness, information security practices, Artificial Intelligence governance, data privacy, responsible social media usage, cyber hygiene, and digital literacy. Institutional strategies were developed to promote responsible digital citizenship and secure digital governance.

April 2025 – Environmental Sustainability

The Committee reviewed Green Campus initiatives, environmental ethics, energy conservation, water management, waste management, Green Audit practices, renewable energy initiatives, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and environmental awareness programmes. Sustainable campus development remained a major institutional priority.

May 2025 – Community Engagement and Institutional Social Responsibility

The Committee reviewed extension activities, NSS programmes, Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR), alumni engagement, industry collaborations, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ethical leadership, volunteerism, and community outreach. Members emphasized meaningful societal contribution and stakeholder participation.

June 2025 – Annual Performance Review

The final meeting evaluated the overall performance of the Committee during the academic year. All resolutions, Action Taken Reports (ATR), documentation, quality initiatives, institutional preparedness for NAAC, NIRF, IQAC, and QS Rankings were reviewed. The Committee approved the Annual Performance Report and formulated the Annual Action Plan for Academic Year 2025–2026.

4. Major Achievements

During the Academic Year 2024–2025, the Committee achieved the following milestones:

- Successfully conducted all twelve scheduled committee meetings.
- Adopted and implemented the University Code of Ethics.
- Strengthened ethical governance across academic and administrative units.
- Enhanced Faculty Development Programmes and professional competency initiatives.
- Improved student employability through structured skill development programmes.
- Strengthened the Mentor–Mentee System and academic monitoring.
- Improved grievance redressal and student support services.
- Enhanced campus safety through laboratory audits and disaster preparedness.
- Promoted academic integrity, ethical conduct, and responsible AI usage.
- Strengthened Gender Equality, POSH, Anti-Ragging, and counselling initiatives.
- Enhanced digital governance, cyber security awareness, and information security.
- Expanded Green Campus initiatives and sustainability programmes.
- Increased community engagement, outreach activities, alumni involvement, and CSR initiatives.
- Maintained comprehensive documentation supporting statutory compliance and quality assurance.

5. Contribution to Institutional Quality

The activities of the University Ethical Committee significantly supported institutional quality enhancement by:

- Strengthening governance and accountability.
- Promoting ethical leadership and professional responsibility.
- Enhancing faculty competency and student success.
- Supporting Outcome-Based Education (OBE).
- Improving institutional preparedness for accreditation and ranking.

- Promoting sustainable development and environmental responsibility.
- Strengthening stakeholder engagement and institutional social responsibility.
- Supporting continuous quality improvement through evidence-based documentation.

6. Outcomes

The Committee successfully achieved the following outcomes during the academic year:

- Increased awareness of ethical practices among faculty, students, and staff.
- Improved institutional transparency and governance.
- Enhanced student welfare and academic support.
- Strengthened safety culture across the campus.
- Improved digital governance and cyber security awareness.
- Enhanced ethical awareness and responsible academic practices.
- Increased participation in community engagement and sustainability initiatives.
- Better institutional documentation supporting NAAC, NIRF, IQAC, and QS World University Rankings.
- Strengthened institutional culture promoting integrity, accountability, inclusiveness, and excellence.

7. Conclusion

The University Ethical Committee (Non-Research) successfully fulfilled its mandate during the Academic Year 2024–2025 by promoting ethical governance, institutional quality, transparency, and continuous improvement across the University. The Committee effectively implemented its Annual Action Plan through systematic monitoring, regular meetings, evidence-based documentation, and collaborative participation from Schools, Departments, Centres, and Administrative Units.

The Committee remains committed to further strengthening ethical governance, academic excellence, digital responsibility, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and institutional quality during the Academic Year 2025–2026, thereby contributing to the University's vision of becoming a globally recognized institution committed to integrity, innovation, inclusiveness, and excellence.