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

UNIVERSITY ETHICAL COMMITTEE (NON-RESEARCH)

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2025–2026

1. Introduction

The University Ethical Committee (Non-Research) of Vels Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) plays a pivotal role in fostering ethical governance, institutional transparency, accountability, and quality enhancement across all academic and administrative units. During the Academic Year 2024–2025, the Committee functioned as an advisory and monitoring body to ensure that ethical values remained embedded in every aspect of University administration.

The Committee successfully implemented the approved Annual Action Plan by conducting twelve monthly meetings, reviewing institutional practices, monitoring compliance with ethical standards, and recommending continuous improvement initiatives. Throughout the year, the Committee focused on faculty development, student welfare, mentoring, academic integrity, grievance redressal, campus safety, digital governance, environmental sustainability, community engagement, and institutional quality enhancement. The Committee also aligned its activities with national and international quality frameworks including IQAC, NAAC, NIRF, Outcome-Based Education (OBE), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and QS World University Rankings.

2. Vision and Objectives

The University Ethical Committee is committed to promoting an institutional culture based on ethics, integrity, inclusiveness, transparency, professionalism, and social responsibility.

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 2025	Establishment of Ethical Governance
August 2025	Faculty Development and Academic Leadership
September 2025	Student Employability Enhancement
October 2025	Academic Monitoring and Mentoring
November 2025	Student Welfare and Grievance Redressal
December 2025	Safety and Risk Management
January 2026	Academic Ethics and Integrity
February 2026	Gender Equality and Student Well-being
March 2026	Digital Ethics and Cyber Governance
April 2026	Environmental Sustainability
May 2026	Community Engagement
June 2026	Annual Performance Review

3. Committee Activities During Academic Year 2025–2026

The Committee conducted **twelve meetings** as per the approved schedule.

July 2025 – Establishment of Ethical Governance

The Committee constituted the University Ethical Committee (Non-Research), adopted the University Code of Ethics, approved the Annual Action Plan, defined member responsibilities, and established a framework for institutional ethical governance and quality assurance. Proper documentation procedures including agendas, minutes, attendance records, and Action Taken Reports (ATR) were standardized.

August 2025 – Faculty Development and Academic Leadership

The Committee reviewed Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), Faculty Improvement Programmes (FIPs), professional ethics, Outcome-Based Education, digital pedagogy, and faculty leadership initiatives. Recommendations encouraged continuous professional development, innovative teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic leadership.

September 2025 – Student Employability Enhancement

The Committee emphasized skill development through value-added courses, certification programmes, internships, placement training, entrepreneurship development, innovation, career guidance, industrial interaction, and professional competency development to improve graduate employability.

October 2025 – Academic Monitoring and Mentoring

The Committee reviewed Class Committee meetings, the Mentor–Mentee System, student attendance, Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA), remedial coaching, bridge courses, counselling, student feedback, academic progression, and retention strategies. Special emphasis was placed on maintaining mentoring records and improving student success.

November 2025 – Student Welfare and Grievance Redressal

The Committee evaluated the Online Grievance Redressal System, student satisfaction surveys, counselling services, transparency in grievance handling, Equal Opportunity initiatives, and student support mechanisms.

December 2025 – Safety and Risk Management

The Committee reviewed laboratory safety, biomedical waste management, fire safety, disaster management, occupational health and safety, emergency preparedness, and campus safety audits to ensure a secure learning environment.

January 2026 – Academic Ethics and Integrity

The Committee reviewed implementation of the Code of Ethics, examination ethics, anti-plagiarism practices, responsible academic conduct, and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching and learning.

February 2026 – Gender Equality and Student Well-being

The Committee focused on gender sensitization, Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), Anti-Ragging measures, counselling services, inclusiveness, constitutional values, mental health, and equal opportunity initiatives.

March 2026 – Digital Ethics and Cyber Governance

The Committee discussed digital governance, cyber security awareness, information security, responsible social media usage, AI governance, data privacy, and digital literacy among students and faculty.

April 2026 – Environmental Sustainability

The Committee reviewed Green Campus initiatives, waste management, water conservation, energy conservation, Green Audit, environmental awareness programmes, and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

May 2026 – Community Engagement

The Committee reviewed extension activities, NSS programmes, alumni engagement, Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ethical leadership, volunteerism, and community outreach programmes.

June 2026 – Annual Performance Review

The Committee reviewed the implementation of all resolutions passed during the year, evaluated institutional compliance with ethical governance practices, assessed documentation, quality enhancement initiatives, and prepared the Annual Action Plan for Academic Year 2025–2026. Members appreciated that all twelve meetings had been conducted successfully and that the recommendations had been effectively implemented by Schools, Departments, IQAC, and other institutional units.

4. Major Achievements

The Committee accomplished several significant milestones during the Academic Year:

- Successfully conducted all twelve scheduled committee meetings.
- Implemented the University Code of Ethics across Schools and Departments.
- Strengthened ethical governance and institutional transparency.
- Enhanced Faculty Development and Faculty Improvement Programmes.
- Improved student employability through structured skill development initiatives.
- Strengthened the Mentor–Mentee System and academic monitoring.
- Enhanced grievance redressal and student welfare services.
- Improved campus safety through laboratory and safety audits.
- Promoted academic integrity, ethical conduct, and responsible AI practices.
- Strengthened Gender Equality, POSH, Anti-Ragging, and counselling mechanisms.
- Enhanced digital governance and cyber security awareness.
- Expanded Green Campus initiatives and sustainability practices.
- Increased community outreach, alumni engagement, and institutional social responsibility.
- Maintained comprehensive evidence-based documentation supporting statutory compliance, accreditation, and quality assurance.

5. Contribution to Institutional Quality

The activities of the Committee significantly contributed to institutional development by:

- Strengthening ethical governance across the University.
- Supporting IQAC initiatives for continuous quality improvement.
- Enhancing faculty competency and leadership.
- Improving student progression, retention, and employability.
- Promoting evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthening documentation for NAAC, NIRF, and QS rankings.
- Encouraging sustainable campus development.
- Enhancing stakeholder participation and institutional accountability.
- Promoting innovation, digital governance, and responsible institutional practices.

6. Outcomes

The Committee achieved the following outcomes during the Academic Year:

- Increased awareness of ethical values among faculty, staff, and students.
- Strengthened institutional transparency and accountability.
- Improved faculty participation in professional development activities.
- Enhanced mentoring, counselling, and academic support systems.
- Better grievance management and student welfare.
- Improved safety management and environmental responsibility.
- Increased awareness of digital ethics and cyber security.
- Enhanced documentation supporting quality assurance and accreditation.
- Strengthened institutional preparedness for NAAC, NIRF, IQAC, and QS World University Rankings.
- Development of a culture based on integrity, inclusiveness, professionalism, sustainability, and continuous improvement.

7. Conclusion

The University Ethical Committee (Non-Research) successfully fulfilled its objectives during the Academic Year 2025–2026 through the effective implementation of its Annual Action Plan. The Committee conducted all twelve scheduled meetings, systematically monitored institutional activities, reviewed Action Taken Reports, and ensured that ethical principles were integrated into academic, administrative, and student support systems. The Committee's initiatives strengthened governance, faculty development, student welfare, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, community engagement, and institutional quality enhancement.

The Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the Management, IQAC, Schools, Departments, faculty members, administrative staff, statutory committees, and students for their active cooperation and commitment throughout the year. Building on the achievements of 2025–2026, the Committee remains committed to further strengthening ethical governance, innovation, quality assurance, stakeholder engagement, and institutional excellence during the Academic Year 2025–2026.