

National Open University of Nigeria

Policy Title	NOUN ICT Policy			
Policy No:	NQSA/POL/IGM/003			
Owner:	National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)			
Approved By:	The University Senate			
Manager/Driver:	Directorate of Information and			
	Communications Technology (ICT)			
Date of Approval:	7 th October 2024			
Date of Next	October 2027			
Review:				

1.0 Introduction

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the driving tool for Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODeL). National Open University of Nigeria is the foremost university in this mode of education in Nigeria. In order to remain competitive, there is need to review policy guidelines for the operations of Information and Communications Technology in the institution. The Directorate of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has the responsibility of providing state-of- the -art ICTs and services to the university community, and ensure smooth and seamless operations in the university as well as in all its sites across the country. The Directorate is also responsible for providing ICT related information as required, protecting the university's databases and critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks.

2.0 Purpose

This policy is to provide operational guidelines for all Information and Communications Technology (ICT) related activities in the university. It will ensure that critical and enterprise information technology infrastructure are functioning optimally. The policy provides a blueprint for the conduct of activities of core Information Technology by staff and behaviour expected from users of ICT devices.

3.0 Scope

The policy focuses on the provision, usage, consent of usage, security of ICT hardware and software. It provides a platform for the implementation guidelines of ICT related activities in the university.

Definitions

- **4.1 ICT:** In the context of NOUN, ICT refers to digital infrastructure, hardware and software.
- **4.2 CSS:** Cascaded Style Sheet. It is the language that is used to style an HTML document. CSS describes how HTML elements should be displayed.
- **4.3 HTML:** Hyper Text Mark-up Language. It is the standard mark-up language for creating web pages. It describes the structure of a web page.
- **4.4 PDF:** Portable Document File. It is a file format that allows electronic documents to be captured and sent precisely as intended.

4.5 Website: An assortment of web pages and other materials that are published on, at least, one web server, and have a unique domain name.

Principles

- **5.1** NOUN is committed to leveraging ICT for its operations and activities.
- **5.2** NOUN is committed to providing, maintaining, and upgrading ICT infrastructure in the university.
- **5.3** NOUN is committed to the safe use of ICT facilities in the university.

Policy Statements

6.1 Website Usage:

- 6.1.1 All contents to be published on the university website will be reviewed and approved by the relevant units. This is to ensure that the content is of a high standard, accurate, devoid of both grammatical and typographical errors and it is compliant with the rules set out by the university.
- 6.1.2 The Registry and DICT will be responsible for the approval of submissions to be uploaded on the website.
- 6.1.3 The file format for document upload is PDF, Word, or Excel.
- 6.1.4 The staff responsible for the upload of contents on the university website will adhere strictly to applicable privacy and data protection laws, also ensuring that personal data is handled and protected appropriately in compliance with privacy policies and legal requirements.

- 6.1.5 The Web Unit staff of the DICT will ensure copyright issues are avoided in the use of multimedia contents such as pictures, animations, movies, and audio files.
- 6.1.6 The website design will ensure easier navigation and access to content.
- 6.1.7 Access control will be implemented for those uploading and updating the website.
- 6.1.8 Cyber Security Unit will ensure security of the website and uphold the principles of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information as required on the website.

6.2 Email Use:

- 6.2.1 The noun email (<u>name@noun.edu.ng</u>) will be created for staff and students through written document from Registrar's office authorising the creation of emails.
- 6.2.2 The email platform will be used for official purposes only.
- 6.2.3 Sending unofficial mass mailings of-to any individual or group of persons is prohibited.
- 6.2.4 Sending rude, obscene, harassing, or illegal material or material that in any way conflicts with the regulations of the university is prohibited.
- 6.2.5 Sending any material that in any way conflicts with State or Federal law is prohibited.

- 6.2.6 Staff password shall be at least 8 characters long (combination of lower-case, CAP-case, numbers, letters, special character).
- 6.2.7 Email passwords shall not be shared by staff.
- 6.2.8 Only assigned email administration staff shall be able to reset email password.
- 6.2.9 The Web Unit shall ensure security of the email platform and provide regular alerts on cyber threats on the platform.

Official emails of staff and students shall be deactivated upon expiration of studentship or service to the university.

6.3 Identity Card Issuance:

The ID Card Unit of DICT shall be responsible for the production and issuance of official staff identity cards. The policy guidelines are as follows:

- 6.3.1 For a new employee: The staff requesting for identity card shall present his/her letter authorizing the issuance of identity card to new staff from the office of the Registrar.
- 6.3.2 For an old employee: The staff requesting for Identity Card (ID card) shall present his/her promotion letter or a letter of re-designation signed by the Registrar.
- 6.3.3 In the case of misplacement of ID card, the staff shall present a police report or-and a court affidavit before a new ID card can be issued.
- 6.3.4 To replace an ID card, the old ID card will be withdrawn from the staff.

- 6.3.5 Part of the clearance process when a staff member is withdrawing his/her services from the university, is to drop his/her ID card with the Registrar.
- 6.3.6 All requests shall be endorsed by the office of the Director of DICT before cards are printed. The staff requesting identity card will go to office of the Director, for endorsement and approval for printing of identity card.
- 6.3.7 Once approval is received, the staff requesting the identity card shall present his/her approved letter for printing of identity card, passport and signature to the ID Card Unit staff who will process the information.
- 6.3.8 The recipient shall be issued his/her staff identity card when processing is completed.
- 6.3.9 The recipient shall acknowledge the receipt of the identity card.
- 6.3.10 Any lost but found ID card of the university should be returned to the office of the University Registrar.

6.4 Computer Issuance:

- 6.4.1 The university shall endeavour to provide all Academic staff with laptops to enable them to perform their duties renewable after every six (6) years.
- 6.4.2 Non- functional or old computers shall be retrieved from academic staff.

- 6.4.3 There will be provision of 2 high-end workstations to function as backup servers in each faculty to enable academic staff to backup their files.
- 6.4.4 Only Non-Teaching Staff from CONTISS 11 and above shall be issued laptops. However, staff who are below CONTISS 11 but assigned specific official duties that require laptops may be considered based on recommendation and approval of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 6.4.5 All staff who received a laptop shall fill an equipment issuance form.
- 6.4.6 All non-teaching staff from CONTISS 6 to CONTISS 9 will be issued desktops in order to enable them to perform their duties.
- 6.4.7 All excess or underutilised computer systems will be withdrawn from the offices and sent to the Directorate of Information and Communications Technology.
- 6.4.8 Any staff below CONTISS 11 requesting laptops, shall seek the approval of DVC TIR and Director, Information and Communications Technology.
- 6.4.9 Staff shall be responsible for the safety of laptops issued to them.
- 6.4.10 High-end laptops would only be issued to Academic staff who are on CONUASS 5 and above and non-Teaching staff who are on CONTISS 13 and above.

6.4.11 DICT shall carry out periodic check of computers in offices to ensure that they are functioning at optimal capacity.

6.5 Verification and Certification of Computers:

- 6.5.1 The Director ICT will assign staff for Verification and Certification of Computers.
- 6.5.2 The staff will acknowledge the receipt of supply voucher from store for verification and certification of newly purchased systems.
- 6.5.3 The staff for Verification and Certification of Computers will be in the University Store with designated certification form.
- 6.5.4 Verification and certification of system shall be based on voucher configuration received. This shall be implemented by the staff.
- 6.5.5 The following shall be considered by the assigned staff in the filling of device configuration in ICT Certification form:
 - Operating system check
 - Processor type and Processor speed
 - Hard drive size verification
 - Memory size verification
 - Warranty period
 - Software Licensing

7.0 Policy Implementation

The following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) shall be followed for the implementation of this policy.

7.0

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
1. Web and	Design	The following are the steps	HOU	The University website
Application	and	followed in the design and	Web Unit	https://nou.edu.ng/
Developme	Develop	development of websites:	Staff.	https://nou.edu.ng/
nt Unit	ment of	Planning:		Faculty websites
	Websites	1. Define goals and		https://fas.nou.edu.ng/
		audience.		https://fas.nou.edu.ng/
		2. Create a project plan		https://foa.nou.edu.ng/
		and timeline.		https://foa.nou.edu.ng/
		3. Gather stakeholder		https://foe.nou.edu.ng/
		requirements.		https://foe.nou.edu.ng/
		Research and Content:		https://fohs.nou.edu.ng/
		1. Study competitors and		https://fohs.nou.edu.ng/
		industry trends.		https://fol.nou.edu.ng/
				https://fol.nou.edu.ng/

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		2. Collect text, images,		https://fms.nou.edu.ng/
		and media content.		https://fms.nou.edu.ng/
		Information Structure:		https://fos.nou.edu.ng/
		1. Organize content		https://fos.nou.edu.ng/
		logically.		https://fss.nou.edu.ng/
		2. Create sitemaps for		https://fss.nou.edu.ng/
		page hierarchy.		Journal Websites
		Wire framing and		http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/
		Prototyping:		http://ijmgs.nou.edu.ng/
		1. Design rough layouts		https://njpls.nou.edu.ng/
		and interactions.		https://njpls.nou.edu.ng/
		2. Develop interactive		https://nijpcr.nou.edu.ng/
		prototypes.		https://nijpcr.nou.edu.ng/
				https://thenounscholar.nou.e
		Visual Design:		<u>du.ng/</u>
		1. Design colors,		https://thenounscholar.nou.e
		typography, and		<u>du.ng/</u>
		branding.		Other Websites
		2. Create mockups of		https://library.nou.edu.ng/
		page designs.		https://library.nou.edu.ng/
				https://acetel.nou.edu.ng/
				https://acetel.nou.edu.ng/

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		Front-End Development:		
		1. Code HTML, CSS,		
		and some		
		JavaScript.		
		2. Ensure		
		responsiveness		
		and UI elements.		
		Back-End Development:		
		1. Build server-side		
		infrastructure.		
		2. Integrate		
		databases and		
		dynamic content.		
		Functionality:		
		1. Add forms, e-		
		commerce, and		
		authentication.		
		2. Test and debug		
		functionality.		

S/NO	ACTIVITY		ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
3/140		 Testing and QA: 1. Test performance and compatibility. 2. Check for errors and usability. Optimization: 1. Improve loading speed and SEO. 2. Ensure search engine visibility. Launch: 1. Deploy on hosting server. 2. Verify all aspects before going live. Post-Launch: 1. Monitor performance and traffic. 2. Address bugs and user feedback. 		

S/NO	ACTIVITY		ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 Security: Implement website security measures. Updates and Maintenance: Keep content and software updated. Continuously improve based on feedback. These steps can vary based on the project's complexity and the website's specific goals. 		
	Update and Manage ment of Websites	Constant update of all web page content as required and requested. The following are the steps followed in updating the websites:		https://nou.edu.ng and all its sub-domains https://nou.edu.ng and all its sub-domains

S/NO A(CTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 Officers assigned to faculties, directorates scout for and source information regularly from the faculties and directorates for updates on their websites or webpages. Faculties and directorates supply the contents through the admin office of the directorate. The content is then uploaded to the website to replace the old content. 		

S/NO ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
Creation, Update, and Manage ment of Email Addresse s	 Email Creation: Harvest the data of newly verified students from the MIS Filter the data to the required field as – First, Other names, Matric No Save on CSV Excel format Open the admin of Google Workspace. Upload the saved file Add the staff to the general staff mailing list known as nounstudents@noun. edu.ng. 	All Web Unit Staff.	MIS link <u>https://www.nouonline.net/ga</u> <u>pi_adm232u.php</u> <u>https://www.nouonline.net/ga</u> <u>pi_adm232u.php</u> Email Link <u>https://admin.google.com/ac/</u> <u>home</u> <u>https://admin.google.com/ac/</u> <u>home</u>

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		Resetting Email for		
		Students:		
		1. Receive the details of		
		the students from		
		either staff/students		
		2. Input into Google		
		Workspace for		
		verification, then reset		
		the password with		
		default as their Matric		
		No with capital letter		
		E.g.: NOU222333444		
		Creation of Email for		
		Staff/Directorate/Units		
		1. The Directorate/Unit		
		write with the details of		
		how the Email domain		
		should be if its non-		
		staff email and submit		
		memo to DICT		
		Admin/secretary for		
		acknowledgment		

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 The admin send the memo to the website unit. The officer checks and confirms the details such as surname, other names, Staff ID, Phone No, and Designation. The officer opens the Google Workspace and inputs the details then click on done. Add the staff to the general staff mailing list known as nounstaff@noun.edu. ng. 		
	Uploads/ Updates from	The following are the steps followed in Uploads/Updates from	All Web Unit Staff as assigned by	

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
	Directora	Directorates, Faculties and	the Head of	
	tes,	Units within the	the Unit.	
	Faculties			
	and Units			
	and	i. Notification/request		
	Study	from Directorate,		
	Centre's	Faculty, Unit and or		
		Study Center's for		
		upload to the director		
		office		
		ii. The Web and		
		Application		
		Development Unit use		
		the soft copy to		
		confirm that the		
		softcopies are Ok.		
		i. The bearer takes the		
		memo to the DICT		
		Admin/secretary for		
		acknowledgment. v. The Director minutes		
		v. The Director minutes request to the Web		

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 and Application Development Unit for upload/update as the case maybe. v. The Web and Application Development Unit then upload/update. 		
	e- Coursew are Upload	 Course Material Development Unit 1. CMDU gives the web unit the soft copies of the course materials to be uploaded. 2. The web unit confirms that the softcopies are Ok. 3. The bearer takes the memo to DICT Admin/secretary for acknowledgment. 		e-Courseware Link using the faculty of Arts as an example: <u>https://nou.edu.ng/ecoursewa</u> <u>re-faculty-of-arts/</u> <u>https://nou.edu.ng/ecoursewa</u> <u>re-faculty-of-arts/</u>

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 Table press for integration of tables on the Website The web unit uploads the courses to the repository via the FTP console. Then proceed to the dashboard to configure the Table space plug-in by creating/updating the course materials with details like course code, course title, course unit, course level and faculty. The URL of the course material is generated and upload ed. 		

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 Then login to the University Website Locate Table press and locate the table Then input the copied URL and other details of the Course Then click Save 		
	vi. News and Announ cements	Important and Urgent News received from various directorates for quick dissemination purposes are made to scroll visibly on the university website homepage. The Announcements are visibly placed as static information beneath the scrolling news section.	Web Unit	https://nou.edu.ng Homepage https://nou.edu.ng Homepage Any unit/faculty/directorate/staff that has any information to display on our website sends a copy of the details to the Admin/Secretary in DICT, who acknowledges the memo, and a copy is sent to the director and to the web unit. The case is treated (content uploaded/updated as

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 The The following are the steps followed in updating the news and announcements section: 1. News generated by the University's media person uploaded on the NOUN news website are equally uploaded on the university website. 2. Announcements for important events in the university (e.g., Exam time table, academic calendar, matriculation, convocation etc.) are also uploaded on the website following a 		the case may be). The memo is signed (name, signature and date) by the head of the web unit or any staff assigned to handle the task showing that the work has been done and this sent back to DICT admin for proper record keeping.

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 memo from the announcing office. 3. Other updates from faculties, departments, units and directorates are uploaded on the university website as instructed by the office-in-charge. 4. News and announcements that are close-ended (i.e. have a closing date or deadline) are archived after the effective time has elapsed. 		
2. ID Card Unit	Endorse ment of request for	All requests are endorsed by the office of the Director of DICT before cards are Produced.	Assistant Registrar, DICT	Endorsed letter by Director DICT

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
	printing of staff ID card by Office of the Director, DICT	1 0		
	Submissi on of endorsed letter at the ID. Card Unit	letter with his/her	HOU ID card, PSA, SDA	Signing of Register for issued ID cards.

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
S/NO		 The signature is scanned A template of ID card in opened in CorelDraw on the computer system. The information on the approved letter for printing of ID card is inputted into the CorelDraw ID card template The passport 	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 o. The passport photograph and the signature is imported into CorelDraw ID Card template 7. The ID card is sent for printing. 8. The recipient is issued his/her staff ID card. 		

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		 9. The recipient acknowledges the receipt of printed staff ID card on his approved letter of request for new ID card. 10. The recipient fills the register for issued ID cards. 		
	Staff requestin g for Identity Cards.	For new employees: An official letter from the Registry, instructing the Directorate to issue ID Cards for the new employee is mandatory. The staff also has to come along with his or her passport photograph and signature.	HOU ID card, PSA, SDA	Staff

ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
	Procedure for Printing		
	Staff ID card: As stated above.		
	For old employees on	HOU ID card,	Staff
		PSA, SDA	
	•		
	Staff ID card:		
	As stated above.		
		,	Staff
	•	PSA, SDA	
	• •		
	Procedure for Printing		
	Staff ID card:		
			Q
		,	Staff
		Staff ID card: As stated above. For old employees on promotion: A copy of the promotion letter, the old ID Card, and a passport photograph are required. Procedure for Printing Staff ID card: As stated above. For staff whose ID Cards are missing or lost: A police report and a sworn court affidavit are required. Procedure for Printing Staff ID card: A s stated above.	Procedure for Printing Staff ID card: As stated above.HOU ID card, PSA, SDAFor old employees on

S/NO	ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
		The old ID cards are required for sighting and a		
		letter from the Head of Unit		
		of the employee in		
		question.		
		Procedure for Printing		
		Staff ID card:		
		As stated above.		
3.	Verificati	The general procedure for	HOU	Certification and verification
Verification	on and	Verification and	Iwuanyanwu	of computers that are
and	Certificati	Certification of computers	Uzoamaka-	supplied to the University
Certificatio	on of	are as follows;	why name?	community
n of	computer	i. Receive supply		
Computers	s (Voucher from store for		
by	desktop	the verification and		
Hardware	computer	certification of newly		
Unit	s, All-in-			
	one	ii. Arrive the store with a		
	systems,	design certification form		
	laptops)	iii. Verify/certify system		
	and other	based on the voucher		

S/NO ACTIVITY	STEPS	ACTION BY	EVIDENCE
ICT related supplied devices	 configuration received from store. iv. Fill in the device configuration in the ICT Verification in the ICT Verification form noting down the following; a) Operating System check b) Processor type and speed of processing c) Hard drive size verification d) Memory size verification e) Warranty period f) Software Licensing 		

8.0 Sanctions on Violating this Policy

Any staff who violates the policy or hinders the successful implementation of the policy shall be punished in accordance with the Conditions of Service of the University.

Policy Alignment

- 9.1 DICT Manual
- 9.2 Email Link: https://admin.google.com/ac/home
- **9.3** Home Page: <u>https://nou.edu.ng</u> and all its sub-domains
- 9.4 MIS link: <u>https://www.nouonline.net/gapi_adm232u.php</u>

NOUN Strategic Plan

NOUN Open Distance and eLearning Policy (2023)

NOUN Digital Transformation Strategy (2023)

NOUN Data Governance Policy (2024)

NOUN Conditions of Service (2016)

10.0 Team of Developers

- 1. Professor Godwin Akper
- 2. Dr. Adewale Adesina
- 3. Dr. Greg Onwodi
- 4. Mr. Adeyinka M. Adeboyejo
- 5. Mr. Sule Onuh
- 6. Mr. Olatunji Folami