

# Interdisciplinary collaboration will foster innovation, spur groundbreaking discoveries

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Teaching and researching necessitate two distinct personality types. - NSTP file pic

**LETTERS:** The integration of education and research is at the heart of modern universities.

Critics of this principle, however, argue that the two tasks are not complementary but rather conflicting.

Teaching and researching necessitate two distinct personality types. The person who publishes the most-cited articles in high-impact journals is not the same person who inspires the new generation in the classroom.

Some academics suggest there should be a clearer separation of duties at universities so that they can do a good job of both teaching and researching.

They argue that universities should have separate faculty members dedicated solely to teaching while others are focused on research. This division of responsibility would allow each group to fully devote their time and energy to their respective tasks, resulting in higher quality education and groundbreaking research.

By recognising and valuing the distinct skills and strengths required for each role, universities can ensure that both teaching and research receive the attention they deserve.

However, this division of labour could lead to a lack of interdisciplinary collaboration and hinder the development of well-rounded faculty members who can effectively integrate teaching and research into their work.

For example, a university that heavily emphasises the division of duties between teaching and research may have professors who are experts in their specific fields but lack the ability to apply their research findings to real-world problems in the classroom.

This could limit the practical applicability of their research and hinder students' ability to learn how to effectively apply academic knowledge in practical settings.

To address this issue, academics should prioritise the practical applicability of their work in the classroom. Students should be able to effectively apply their research findings in real-world situations so that they can learn how to do so.

Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaboration should be encouraged among faculty members to promote the exchange of ideas and perspectives from different disciplines.

This collaboration can foster innovation and potentially lead to groundbreaking discoveries.

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