



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, Website: <http://www.hec.gov.pk>

Dr. Shaista Sohail

Executive Director

No.1-10/ED/HEC/2021/ 71
December 30, 2021

Subject: To Engage Undergrad/ Graduate and Post Graduate Students of Final Year to do Projects/ thesis on indigenous problems by engaging with local stakeholders (Industry, Businesses, Government Departments and Others).

Respected Madam/Sir

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (HEC) is a federal supra body mandated to facilitate, support, and ensure quality of higher education across the country. As per HEC Act, following are the important legal clauses highlighting the subject matter:

- “Formulate policies, guiding principles and priorities for higher education Institutions for promotion of socio-economic development of the country”.
- “Support the development of linkages between Institutions and Industry as well as national and international organizations that fund research and development with a view to enhancing research”.
- “Facilitate the introduction of education programmes that meet the needs of the employment market and promote the study of basic and applied research in every field of national and international importance in the Institutions”.
- “Promote formal links between Institutions in the country to make the most effective use of experience and specialized equipment and promote national and international linkages with respect to knowledge sharing, collaborative research, personnel exchange and cost sharing”.

2. Keeping in consideration the HEC Act Clauses above, and to strengthen the applied aspects of academics and research, engagement with multiple stakeholders including local industries, businesses, chambers, government departments, national and international organizations is the need of the hour for socioeconomic inclusive development. Therefore, it is recommended that HEIs must share their academics and research outcome with these stakeholders to develop a modus operandi to enhance production, development, transfer of new technologies and creation of employment by narrowing the existing gap. The following is requested, please:

- a. To Engage Industry Liaison Office with local industry to collect information about technical, management related problems (both Financial & Human Resource).
- b. The list of relevant problems must be available to concerned personnel involved in assigning and approving titles of Final Year Projects, Graduate & Postgraduate Research titles or synopsis.
- c. Undergraduate Students must be encouraged to do Final year Project based on the identified problems thus providing indigenous solutions with full consultation of end user and/or local stakeholders (Industry, Businesses, Government Departments and Other). However graduate

and post graduate students should do applied research on similar or advanced problems for long term solutions and designing sustainable ECOsystem.

- d. As a CBM for industry , ORICs and Career Counselling & Placement offices should organise events to showcase the final year projects , include industry personnel in thesis defence etc. to let local industry & stakeholders (as defined above) witness the capabilities of graduates in solving such problems indigenously & in cost effective manner.
- e. ORICs should strive to have industry funded FYPs to develop prototype technology/models for pertinent recurring problems of respective industry(ies).
- f. The target should be set for graduate placements either through the recruitment by industry based upon FYP / Thesis (10-15%) and/or graduates (5-10%) gain confidence to be an entrepreneur through the developed product/ model / IT solution etc.
- g. While considering solutions for local issues, ORICs must start inclusion of subjects which are non technological in nature but are of cross-cutting nature to have a role to play especially in entrepreneurship ventures.
- h. HEIs Board of Advanced Studies & Research or relevant fora must work in close coordination with Industrial Advisory Board or may modify their policies to form one (if doesn't exist already) and notify the same by involving nominees from stakeholders defined above and share with HEC within a month, please.

3. It will further stimulate multi stakeholder linkages and harness the benefits from academics and research excellence of HEIs/ universities in areas that have most utility for the country and improving the socio-economic status of our population.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Shaista Sohail

The Vice Chancellors of All Universities