

# **SINDH HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program (National)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sindh Higher Education Commission (Sindh HEC) invites applications from faculty members and research officers of public and private sector universities/HEIs, chartered by the Govt. of Sindh or located in Sindh for the award of 6-12 months Post-doctoral Scholarships within Pakistan in relevant leading institutions. This scheme covers all branches of higher learning, including natural sciences, health sciences, engineering, social sciences, languages, *etc.* 60 percent of fellowships slots are reserved for faculty members of public sector universities and HEIs in Sindh, private universities/HEIs are given 25 percent slots, and 15 percent of slots are allocated for public sector R&D organizations of Sindh (recognized by Pakistan Council of Science and Technology). Applications in emerging fields of science, technology, and innovation that are applied in nature, relevant to industries, and have an impact on society, are especially welcomed. Similarly, host institutions in other provinces will be preferred in order to promote national coherence and inter-provincial Science & Technology / academic collaboration.

### **PREFERRED AREAS:**

- a. Human Nutrition
- b. Biomedical and Health Sciences
- c. Pharmaceutical
- d. Food Processing and Value Addition
- e. Precision Agriculture
- f. Solid Waste Management
- g. Urban Planning
- h. Digital Transformation
- i. Cybersecurity
- j. Infection Prevention and Treatment
- k. Conservation of Cultural Heritage
- l. AI Applications in various Fields of National Needs
- m. Quantum Computing in various fields
- n. Nanotechnology
- o. Renewable/Alternate Energy
- p. Entrepreneurship

*\*Projects in the other areas/fields of studies will also be considered.*

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **The applicant must:**

- i. Hold a Ph.D. degree from a HEC recognized university.
- ii. Be a faculty member (BPS/TTS) / research officers of public/private sector university/ HEIs/ R&D Institutions.
- iii. Must have a placement in public/private sector university/ HEIs/ R&D Institutions.
- iv. Submit a clearly written research proposal, relevant to the academic field, industry/society, and needs of the province/country.
- v. Maximum 50 years of age on the closing date of application.
- vi. Hold Domicile and Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) of Sindh Province.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Following are the terms & conditions of the award of Post-Doctoral Scholarship within the country, and the acceptance of the award is an acknowledgment of these obligations:

- i. A scholar will not change the course of the research study as specified in the letter of award.
- ii. A scholar will obtain commitment of study leave for this scholarship period (after shortlisting and before final selection).
- iii. A change of university/institute during the study will not be admissible.
- iv. The scholarship will be awarded for the specified period, as proposed on the acceptance letter (minimum for 6 months, but not beyond 12 months).
- v. A scholar can stay outside the HEIs of study/research for a maximum period of 4 weeks (28 days) for research purpose or due to any other emergency, subject to prior approval from the Sindh HEC and consent of host supervisor. The stipend will be deducted for a period beyond the allowed limit.
- vi. The scholar shall be required to proceed to host institution within four months after issuance of the final award letter failing which his/her award will be canceled.
- vii. The postdoctoral scholarship application will be processed on the basis of information/data provided by the applicants and in case of any error/omission and misrepresentation, Sindh HEC reserves the right to reject the applicant at any stage.
- viii. An awardee shall sign an agreement with the Sindh Higher Education Commission (Sindh HEC) on non-judicial (Stamp) paper to the effect that in case the awardee fails to complete his / her Postdoctoral studies, he/ she will refund to the Sindh HEC the total amount spent on his/ her Postdoctoral studies by the Sindh HEC.
- ix. In addition, a personal guarantee of a person of means on non-judicial (E-Stamp) paper to the effect of ensuring the recovery in case of default would need to be furnished.
- x. An awardee is required to execute a bond with the Sindh Higher Education Commission to serve his parent department/institution for 3 years subsequent to the completion of postdoctoral research, otherwise he shall have to return the amount disbursed by Sindh HEC (fully or partially to be decided by Sindh HEC) for Post-doctorate.
- xi. Every document i.e. Deed of Agreement, Guarantee to Sindh HEC and Surety Bond must be properly notarized, that means the document must be registered by the Notary Public

maintained by him as notary register and the signatures of the executants must be obtained on the register and the number of the registration must be mentioned along with the notarial stamp.

- xii. Applicants should be clearly informed that if they are already engaged in any project under the Sindh HEC or HEC Pakistan, their submission will be automatically rejected. This applies even at a later stage, after the provisional or final award of the postdoctoral fellowship.
- xiii. Post-Doctoral Fellowship applications are processed on the basis of online information/data provided by the applicants and in case of any error/omission and misrepresentation, the Sindh HEC reserves the right to reject the application at any stage or recover full amount **with / without penalty (as the case may be)** after award of the fellowship. However, the Sindh HEC will provide full justification of its decision.

### **Selection of Host Institutions/ Research Centers**

- The host institutions / research centers from the given list (Annexure-II) and in other provinces of the country will be preferred.
- Host institutions/ research centers should have required facilities (Laboratories, instrument facilities, well subscribed libraries, etc.). These facilities have to be listed on the institutional websites.
- The postdoctoral supervisor must be a professor in the relevant field. However, an associate professor may supervise if he/she has completed a postdoctoral fellowship.
- Applicant has to provide the details of expertise (research publications, patents, monographs, citations, and h-index, etc, on Google Scholar and on Scopus) of the host supervisor, with reference to the research proposal along with the application.
- The host institutions/ research centers which offer postdoctoral research with bench fee waiver will be preferred.

#### **Note:**

- Agreement/Undertaking, surety and guarantee format will be provided to the candidate upon final selection.
- The scholarship will cover host university bench fee (if any), return air-fare/travel cost, stipend, and settlement allowance as per actual or up to the ceiling mentioned below, whichever is less.

### **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (IN ONE PDF FILE)**

The complete application package includes the following:

1. A Cover Letter
2. Applicants are required to submit a clearly written research proposal as per format duly endorsed by the host supervisor (Refer to the section “Outcome and deliverable”)

3. Acceptance letter from the faculty supervisor at a public/private sector university/ HEIs/ R&D Institutions. The letter should clearly mention the duration of post-doc, commencement date and bench fee (if any).
4. NOC from the relevant government department/university authorities. (Required when applicant is shortlisted by Sindh HEC for further processing).
5. Appointment/regularization letter as a TTS/BPS faculty member /research officers in public/private sector university/ HEIs/ R&D Institution.
6. Attested copies of educational transcripts and degrees /Ph. D. notification in chronological order
7. Candidate CV/Resume
8. Supervisor CV/Resume
9. Attested photocopy of CNIC
10. Attested photocopies of domicile and PRC.
11. Photocopy of employment letter/office order
12. Printed copy of the prescribed application form.

**Note:**

- Two sets of all the above documents (One original and one photocopied) should be tape bind and in the same order as mentioned above.
- Incomplete applications or applications with missing documents will be rejected.

**OUTCOME AND EVALUATION**

Based on the research proposals, the applicant has to satisfy at least 3 of the 7 outcomes/deliverable identified below:

- Access to equipment and high-impact research collaborations not available in parent institution.
- Learn new advancement / areas which can benefit the parent institution, and Pakistan.
- Research proposal focusing on priority areas mentioned in page 1.
- Creation of funded research linkages and collaborations between Pakistani institutions.
- Creation and introduction of new programs and courses, if not available in parent institution.
- Publish manuscripts in peer-reviewed high impact factor journals/ international Patents.
- Production of Books/ Book Chapters/ Conference Proceedings (applies to Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities only)

*The Sindh HEC expert evaluation committee will review the quarterly and final progress reports in the light of above KPIs, and deliverables / outcomes mentioned in the research proposal.*

## **PROGRESS REPORT SUBMISSION:**

The scholar will be required to submit a quarterly reports sharing progress on their research. A minimum of 3 reports will be required to be submitted during the 9-month Post-Doc period (In case of extension, 4 reports will be required during the maximum 12 month period).

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The maximum fellowship amount per scholar for total duration of Scholarship (Including Living Allowance, Health Insurance, Research/Lab Cost, and Air Ticket (economy class)/travel cost).

<b>SN</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Cost (PKR)</b>
1	Bench Fee (as justified in the acceptance letter)* <sup>1-6</sup>	Rs. 150,000/ month for science and engineering/ Rs. 50,000/ month for social sciences, mathematics, etc.
2	Stipend @ Rs. 150,000/month per scholar	150,000/month
3	Travel (return airfare (economy class/Train/By road)	As per actual
4	Accommodation Allowance (case to case)	30,000/ month
	<b>Total</b>	

\*1: Applications with bench fee waiver will be preferred.

\*2: The bench fee must be utilized in accordance with the codal requirements set by the Government of Pakistan.

\*3: All purchases from the bench fee should be made through the University's purchase office.

\*4: Expenditures must be justifiable.

\*5: The bench fee is exclusively for the purchase of chemicals/consumables and conducting seminars/workshops.

\*6: Bench fee cannot be used for salaries or honoraria.

**Application, complete in all respect, must reach to the Sindh Higher Education Commission, F-60, 1 Shahrah-e-Attar, near Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine, Block 4 Clifton, Karachi on or before 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, through registered post and send online in one PDF file on given email address: [ad.qa@sindhhec.gov.pk](mailto:ad.qa@sindhhec.gov.pk). The application submitted by hand will not be accepted.**

### **Contact Details:**

**MUHAMMAD NAWAZ**

**Assistant Director (Quality Assurance)**

**Sindh Higher Education Commission, Government of Sindh.**

**F-60/1, Shahrah-e-Attar, Near Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine, Clifton Block 4, Karachi.**

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