

SINDH HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

International Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program (Phase-II)

INTRODUCTION

Sindh Higher Education Commission is offering International Postdoctoral Fellowship, strictly based on an open merit-based process for regular faculty members (BPS / TTS)/professionals of regulatory bodies of higher education of the province of Sindh. 70 percent fellowships slots are reserved for public sector universities/HEIs and regulatory bodies. 30 percent slots are allocated for private universities and DAIs in Sindh.

PREFERRED AREAS:

1. Health and Life Sciences

- Human Nutrition
- Biomedical and Health Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Infection Prevention and Treatment
- Health Professions Education
- Medical/Dental Clinical Sciences

2. Agriculture and Food

- Food Processing and Value Addition
- Precision and Climate-resilient Agriculture
- Horticulture Sciences
- Plant and animal breeding, and biotechnology

3. Environment and Urban Development

- Solid Waste Management
- Urban Planning
- Conservation of Cultural Heritage

4. Digital Innovation

- Digital Transformation Systems
- Cybernetic, Cybersecurity and Robotics
- AI Applications in various fields of National Needs
- Hybrid Warfare and Disinformation
- Data Science

4a. Engineering and Technology

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Materials
- Reverse Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Semi-Conductors

5. Energy and Devices

- Energy Devices and Technologies
- Energy Conservation and Management

6. International Relations and Strategic Studies

- Geo-economics
- Geo-politics
- Comparative Foreign Policy

7. Economics

- Corporate Financing and Financial Technologies (Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies, E-Commerce)
- Climate Financing
- Microeconomic and Macroeconomics

8. Management Sciences

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Sustainability and Green Management

9. Natural Sciences

- Biological Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Quantum Computing and Cryptography
- Astronomy and Cosmology

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Applicant must:

- i. Hold Ph. D. degree from HEC recognized local or foreign university (HEC attested / Equivalence Certificate for a foreign Ph.D.).
- ii. Be a regular faculty of public/private sector universities/ HEIs or regular employees of regulatory bodies of Sindh.
- iii. Not over 50 years of age on the last date of submission.
- iv. Preferably possess five years Post Ph.D experience in Sindh, Pakistan.
- v. A placement letter (on the host university letterhead) from the top 200 QS World Ranking Universities/ 200 QS World Subject ranking research institutions will be preferred. Placement request in top 500 universities /R&D Institutions as per QS world ranking can

also be considered. In all cases of placement in top 500 QS World Ranking Universities, strong professional standing of host supervisor will be extensively reviewed.

- vi. Hold Domicile & Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC - Form C) of the Sindh Province.
- vii. Women researchers are encouraged to apply.

Applicants not Eligible:

- i. Applicants who have already availed/availing any other Post-Doctoral Fellowship of Sindh HEC/ HEC Pakistan / other related organizations.
- ii. Applicants who are not regular faculty members (BPS/TTS) in public/private sector universities/ HEIs.
- iii. Applicants who have ongoing research project under the Sindh Research Support Programme (SRSP) of Sindh HEC.
- iv. Applicants who already hold a senior academic or professional position equivalent to Professor or higher level or BPS 20 and above in regulatory body.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- i. Selected scholars will have to ensure that entire research is carried out in the designated host foreign institution. They have to be physically present in the same University/department for which approval is granted.
- ii. The maximum duration for stay abroad is nine (09) months. The selected scholar cannot return back to Pakistan during fellowship period, except with prior permission from the Sindh HEC.
- iii. In case the scholar returns back to Pakistan without completing nine months of the postdoctoral fellowship at host university/institute, and without obtaining prior permission from Sindh HEC, the foreign stipend will not be admissible. Sindh HEC reserves the right to adjust/recover any advance payment or entire amount, and to initiate legal proceedings, as the case may be.
- iv. The person availing the fellowship would be required to sign a surety bond, co-signed by a guarantor requiring him/her to return to parent institution in Sindh, Pakistan, on completion of post-doctoral fellowship and serve in the university/institution/organization in Sindh, Pakistan, for a period of three (03) years.
- v. 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.
- vi. In case a candidate doesn't return, he/she may be liable to strict action including legal proceedings, such as passport, and NIC blockage, etc.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN HARD AND SOFT FORMAT:

1. A checklist
2. Updated CV
3. Applicants are required to submit a clearly written research proposal in required format (Refer to the section "Outcome and deliverable").

4. Letter of Acceptance as Postdoc/ Visiting Research fellow: The letter must be on the University/ institutional letterhead. The proposed research study, its title, why is it beneficial for both parties, etc. must be clearly discussed in the body of the letter. If the official authorized to sign the letter is different from the Host Supervisor, then the name of the Host Supervisor must be mentioned in the letter. The letter should confirm the Host University's commitment, and how much it will charge on account of Bench Fee/ Lab Experimentation Cost (if any) for the proposed project. Applications with bench fee waiver will be preferred.
5. Curriculum Vitae/Profile of the Host Supervisor.
6. HEC attested Ph.D. degree (for local Ph.D. degree holders only).
7. HEC Equivalence Certificate (for foreign Ph.D. degree holders only).
8. Foreign Ph.D. Degree & Transcript with authentic translation (for foreign Ph.D. Degree holders only).
9. Attested copies of educational transcripts and degrees (Ph.D. to SSC) in chronological order.
10. Attested copies of CNIC, Domicile & PRC (Form C)
11. NOC from the relevant authority/university authorities.
12. Appointment/regularization letter as a TTS/BPS faculty member /research officers in public/private sector university/ HEIs.
13. Duty Resumption Notification (Only for the applicants who have completed Ph.D. during service after obtaining study leave).
14. Experience Certificates (Only for foreign Ph.D. degree holders in support of their claim of five years recognized work experience).
15. NOC/Completion Certificate for HEC/Sindh HEC Scholarships/research projects (Completed/Ongoing, as PI or Co-PI).
16. All above documents in ONE PDF file.

Note:

- Two sets of all the above documents (One original & 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

The research proposals shall clearly outline how applicant intends to satisfy at least 3 of the 7 outcomes/deliverable identified below:

- Access to equipment and high-impact research collaborators, not available in Pakistan
- Learn new advancement / areas which can benefit the Parent institution and Pakistan.
- Research proposal focusing on priority areas, mentioned in page 1.
- Creation of externally funded research linkages and collaborations.
- Creation and introduction of new programs and courses in Pakistan.
- 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 the KPIs, and deliverables / outcomes, mentioned in the approved research proposal.

PROGRESS REPORT SUBMISSION

The selected candidates required to submit a quarterly progress report to the Sindh HEC, and to their HODs. These reports need to be duly endorsed by the host supervisors. Only after satisfactory evaluation of each quarterly progress report, candidates will be allowed to continue their studies abroad for remaining 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)).

| SN | Item | Unit Cost (PKR) |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Living Allowance* | USD 1500 per month (Maximum) |
| 2 | Health Insurance** | USD 2000 Once |
| 3 | Research Lab/Experimentation Cost*** (Bench fee) | USD 6000 Once |
| 4 | Air Ticket (Return)**** | Rupees 350,000/- Once |

* The stipend to the scholars will be paid according to the PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) of host country. The list for stipend rate for various countries is given at Annexure-I.

**Health Insurance will be reimbursable up to the provision mentioned above or actual if less, upon providing the documentary evidence/receipt of payment.

***Average Research/Lab Experimentation Cost has been estimated @ US\$6000. However, this will be paid as per need on the basis of research/lab work experimentation/procurement of data/survey etc. mentioned in the research proposal submitted at the time of application. Applications with bench fee waiver will be preferred.

****Actual economy class air ticket (most direct/cheapest) will be paid.

Application, complete in all respect, must reach the Sindh Higher Education Commission office, at F-60/1 Shahrah-e-Attar, near Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine, Block 4 Clifton, Karachi on or before, 31 March 2026 through registered post and Email the same at ad.qa@sindhhec.gov.pk. The application submitted by hand will not be entertained.

Contact Details:

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Sindh Higher Education Commission
Karachi.

Email: ad.qa@sindhhec.gov.pk

www.sindhhec.gov.pk