



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

Dr. Shaista Sohail
Executive Director

No. 15(18)/A&A/Acc./HEC/2022
February 23, 2023

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Subject: Compliance of HEC Affiliation Criteria by all Public Sector HEIs

Respected Vice Chancellor/ Rector/ Director,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The Higher Education Commission has been empowered by virtue of its Ordinance No. LIII of 2002, Section 10-1(d) **to prescribe conditions under which Institutions, including those that are not part of the State educational system, may be opened and operated** across the country. Accordingly, HEC devised an Affiliation Criteria which was approved by the "Commission" in 2005 and notified to all HEC recognized Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for compliance.

2. The Commission is also mandated to devise policies, set standards and define priorities in various fields pertinent to institutional regulations with a view to supplement the quality of education imparted through public and private sector universities as well as their affiliated units. It is the utmost responsibility of the academic institutions to uphold all academic standards to ensure quality education and fulfillment of all requisite criteria in quantitative as well as qualitative terms.

3. Nevertheless, despite the fact that HEC has given clear policies and directions, it has been noted that a number of public sector HEIs continue to affiliate substandard colleges without properly adhering to the policy guidelines/criteria issued by the HEC. The affiliations granted by a number of HEIs are even without meeting the necessary academic and physical requirements including qualified faculty and physical space/equipment etc. which are necessary to establish & maintain a conducive academic environment. **The degrees awarded in such cases are highly compromised in terms of quality of higher education.** It has been observed that affiliated colleges are the weaker link in our higher education system. The graduates of these colleges face serious issues and end up with denial of degree attestation by the HEC.

4. The instant issue was deliberated at length during the Vice Chancellors' Meeting held on February 2, 2023 at HEC, Islamabad. It was principally agreed that all public sector Universities/ HEIs, having provision in their charters to grant affiliations, be advised to **immediately refrain from granting fresh/new affiliation to any institution/college till the finalization/notification of fresh policy by HEC and development of monitoring & evaluation system by affiliating HEIs.**

5. It is sincerely hoped that the Universities/HEIs shall ensure compliance of the above instructions till revamp of affiliation system in higher education sector.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)
(Dr. Shaista Sohail)

Rectors/Vice-Chancellors/Directors,
All Public Sector Universities/Institutions.

Copy to:

- i. **The Chairman**, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
- ii. **The Secretary** to the Governor/Chancellor, Governor Secretariat, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta.
- iii. **The Secretary** to President/Chancellor, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad.
- iv. **The Secretary**, Higher Education Department (HED), Govt. of Punjab, Lahore.
- v. **The Secretary**, Universities & Boards Department, Govt. of Sindh, Karachi.
- vi. **The Secretary**, Higher Education, Archives & Libraries Department, Govt. of KP, Peshawar.
- vii. **The Secretary**, Colleges, Higher & Technical Education Department, Govt. of Baluchistan, Quetta.
- viii. **All Regional Centers** of HEC.