



ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

Dr. Muhammad Tahir Ali Shah
Director (R&D)

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Subject: REVISION OF RESEARCH JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS POLICIES

Higher Education Commission has been making persistent efforts to raise the quality of national research journals since 2005. However, in order to bring these journals at par with international best standards, the Commission, in its 34th Meeting held on August 30-31, 2019, decided to make a major policy shift towards a more transparent, rigorous, and focused system for Accreditation, Monitoring, Capacity Building and Funding of Research Journals.

02. The approved revised criteria, as detailed below, shall be applicable from 1st July 2020. Till that time, the existing system shall continue to enforce. Salient features of the revised system are described below;

A-Revised Minimum Criteria for Accreditation of Research Journals

Level	Eligibility Requirements
W	(i) Indexation with well-reputed international databases preferably Web of Science and Scopus. (ii) Must have citation information from diverse sources including Impact Factor, Source Normalized Impact per paper, Eigen Factor, SCImago Journal Rank, and Impact per paper. (iii) Should have required Weighted Average Score on all the above parameters on thresholds fixed for each scientific area calculated through an IT Based System (Details will be notified at the latest by 31 st December 2019)
X	(i) Published articles should be peer-reviewed by well-reputed international experts in relevant field (ii) Indexing/abstracting with at least one recognized indexing abstracting agency of HEC with some additional quality criteria (iii) At minimum: 1/4 th of the published articles should have international authorship (iv) No self-institutional publications allowed (v) Articles processing through OJS or similar journal management system
Y	(i) An academic editorial board (or equivalent), comprising of members with PhD degrees in relevant fields (i.e., area of publication) and strong research and publications background (ii) Publications by editor or members of editorial team not allowed (iii) Self-institutional authorship shall not exceed 1/5 th of total articles
Note	<i>Mere fulfilment of above criteria doesn't guarantee accreditation. HEC will have an exclusive right to defer/reject any application of a journal on the basis of content analysis, non-compliance to SOPs or upon infringement of ethical guidelines framed by HEC.</i>

B-Funding of Research Journals

Funding will be provided to accredited research journals on need cum performance basis as per following limits up to a period of 2 years extendable maximum for another year (until the journal reaches W Category) subject to approval of competent authority on case to case basis;

S.#	Category of Journal	Type of Funding	Maximum Limit p.a	Heads of Account
1	W	Eligibility Funding	Rs. 700,000/-	License Fee for Indexing, Honoraria to Editorial Team, Website related expenses, Reviewers Fees
2	X	Performance Based Funding	Rs. 450,000/-	
3	Y	Seed Funding	Rs. 250,000/-	



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C-Recognition/Equivalence of Research Oriented Books

Research oriented books in all the scientific areas shall be recognized and equated with maximum 2 research articles in either of X or Y Category on the expert recommendations of relevant scientific expert panel. Detailed SOPs are stipulated in “**Journals and Publications Policy Document**” (available at www.hec.gov.pk/site/journals).

D-Verification of Research Publications

All the Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) of Higher Education Institutions are responsible, inter-alia, to facilitate their faculty/students in verification of research publications as per criteria in vogue. QECs may seek access to required online resources through digital library of HEC as per prescribed rules.

E-Capacity Building of Editors of Research Journals

As a part of objective to uplift and globalize the national research journals, HEC will arrange extensive Editors Orientation Workshops to equip the Editorial Teams of Eligible Journals with necessary skills and tools so that they can meet international best standards for publishing research.

3. The above policies are hereby circulated for information of all the stakeholders. Detailed guidelines/SOPs are given in “**Journals and Publications Policy Document**”. Sufficient timeframe is hereby given before implementation of revised policy framework. All the Editors of research journals are requested to please take necessary steps towards compliance of revised system as continuity/grant of accreditation will be based upon above narrated policies from the financial year 2020-21.

(Dr. Muhammad Tahir Ali Shah)

All the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of Public and Private Sector Universities

All the Editors of HEC Recognized Research Journals

Copy for information to:

- (i) Executive Secretary to the Chairman HEC
- (ii) Executive Secretary to the Executive Director HEC
- (iii) PS to all the Director Generals of HEC
- (iv) Directors HEC.