



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

Dr. Shaista Sohail
Executive Director

RefNo. 10-1/A&C/HEC/2021/19

15th January 2021

Subject: **Adoption and Implementation of Undergraduate Education Policy 2020**

Dear Vice Chancellor/Rector/Head,

As you are kindly aware, the Higher Education Commission in its 34th meeting (30-31 August 2019) approved the new undergraduate policy, covering the 2-year program (i.e., the Associate Degree), the main 4-year program (BS degree), and undergraduate professional education programs (including MBBS, BE, and others). The policy was refined through extensive consultation with over 1,000 faculty members from both public and private universities.

A pdf version of the policy was sent to you on 12 August 2020, under a covering letter from our Program Specialist (Academics), Dr. Zulfiqar Gilani (No: 1-32/PERU/UGE Policy/HEC/20/18, dated August 12, 2020), which was followed by a printed version in December 2020. I will not take up your valuable time by repeating Dr. Gilani's exposition of the need, purposes, and processes through which the policy was developed.

Instead, I would like to draw your attention to three points made in the above correspondence. First, that in accordance with the decision of the Commission, the policy has to be adopted by all universities through their standard procedures, that is, the necessary approvals by the Academic Council and Syndicate or equivalent governing body. Since most of the provisions of the policy are already in accordance with the best practices at leading Pakistani universities, this should not pose a major hurdle. However, it may be necessary to develop a working paper on the specific decisions that are needed. I would like to seek your support in ensuring the adoption of the policy, and conveying this information to the HEC as soon as possible. Dr. Gilani had indicated a deadline of 31 January, but in view of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have extended it to March 31, 2021.

Second, the policy has to be implemented starting from the Fall Semester 2021. To assist universities in this regard, HEC is developing an Implementation Manual, which should be in your hands soon. As in other matters, we will provide additional support from time to time in the form of guidelines and operational manuals.

Third, as you are aware, HEC policies take a variety of forms, including advisory guidelines as well as binding regulations. All policies pertaining to academic standards are in the latter category, and are mandatory. I would like to seek your support in ensuring that the approved policy is implemented in letter and spirit. My colleagues and I at the Commission Secretariat are more than happy to assist in any interpretation or clarification that may be needed.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely

(Dr Shaista Sohail)

The Vice Chancellors/Rectors, All public and private sector Universities/DAIs