



## **PUNJAB HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

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### **Call for Research Proposals**

#### **Part-A**

#### **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

#### *for* **THEMATIC RESEARCH GRANTS**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), established through an Act of Punjab Assembly in 2014, is an autonomous body striving for excellence in the field of academics and research in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Punjab. For the purpose, PHEC is generously funding various scholarship and fellowship schemes and is contributing to the country's knowledge economy by creating a group of scholars who are well equipped with modern, innovative, critical and market-driven skills. Keeping in view the current global trends and indigenous needs of the society, PHEC is taking another step to address impediments to the social, economic and political development of the province and to offer viable and practical solutions to the policy makers which can contribute to actualizing the vision of the Chief Minister of the Punjab. Under this initiative, PHEC seeks research proposals from qualified faculty members of public sector colleges and universities of the province for the following themes.

#### **2. THEMES**

##### **Theme 1 Skilled Based Education as a Promising Indicator of Knowledge-Based Economy**

Under this theme researchers are required to delineate the contours of a knowledge-based economy and global economic trends with their particular relevance to local context and economy; thus suggesting a viable paradigm for the socio-economic development of Pakistan especially focusing on entrepreneurship as an emerging industry of Pakistan. It is supposed to map out the necessity of skill-based education in line with both local industrial demands and global hi-tech markets. Secondly, the research will also highlight the potential to be generated through skill-based education in the aftermath of a collection of data from various primary and secondary resources.

##### **Theme 2 Academia-Industry Linkages**

The topics under this theme are expected to address the missing links in academia-industry interaction in Pakistan. So far the current research in Pakistan has been carried without mapping the industrial needs. The proposed research ought to take into account

industrial necessity to make the local products competitive in the global market. The marketable solutions of industrial problems can result into better links between them on a reciprocal basis. Furthermore, research will have a positive impact on the quality of academics and research of such partnerships. They can stimulate a culture of entrepreneurship among students and provide them practical exposure.

### **Theme 3      Pakistan's current democratic transition: drivers and Implications**

Under the above theme, researchers are required to address social, political and economic challenges to democracy, their solutions, and implications for policy makers and other stakeholders. Secondly, being a country of growing young population, there is exigency to carry out research on youth, their aspirations (political, social and economic) and their vision for the future of Pakistan. Thirdly, the research should aim to locate youth in the democratic policy making initiatives by making academic institutions partner with policy making organizations of Pakistan.

### **Theme 4      Demographic Transition and Urbanization: Implications for Policy Makers**

Under this theme, researchers are required to probe the demographic and technological trends occurring in the urban areas of Punjab. The research on these themes would help develop a new paradigm of thinking based on empirics which can be helpful to develop planned town and urban planning initiatives. Secondly, technological advancements in the realm of internet age have put a premium on the role of social planning. The research envisions to develop a democratization of ideas through which social planning would have positive effects on the social order of Pakistan. The vulnerabilities of Pakistani society are to be explored and the workable solutions to the challenges are anticipated through successful execution of research projects.

## **3.      OBJECTIVES**

Following are the broader objectives to be achieved through this initiative

1. To identify and address the issues which impede the social, political, and economic development of Punjab
2. To offer innovative, viable and affordable solutions for such issues.
3. To produce an archive of indigenous knowledge grounded in local context.
4. To facilitate policy makers with pragmatic solutions to devise policies to bring a positive developmental change in the country.
5. To provide researchers an opportunity to enhance their critical thinking abilities and research skills to tackle local issues.

#### **4. BUDGET ESTIMATES**

Maximum funding for each research project may be up to Rs. 3.000 million. Principal Investigators (PIs) will submit a detailed budget proposal for his/her project on the prescribed Proforma available at <http://punjabhec.gov.pk/scholarships>. The budget will be prepared as per the allocated budget heads whereby 70% of the budget will be consumed exclusively on research activities while the remaining 30% will be allocated for human resource. No additional cost will be provided for the project. The scope of the research proposal must be determined prior.

#### **5. DURATION**

Grants will be provided to the successful candidates for 12 months. The funding will be transferred to the concerned university which will administer the grant and will ensure the timely completion of the project.

#### **6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- i. The Principal Investigators (PIs) of proposed research project must be a full-time regular faculty member, holding a PhD degree, either on BPS, TTS or on contract not less than project life in public sector colleges and universities of Punjab.
- ii. Period of execution of the Research project should not exceed 12 months.
- iii. Maximum funding for Research Proposal may be up to 3 million.
- iv. PI cannot submit more than one (01) research project.
- v. Applications may be considered ineligible if they are;
  - a. Incomplete
  - b. Not filed in prescribed proforma
  - c. Not received by Academic & Research (A&R) Division of PHEC on or before the closing date.
  - d. Not signed/countersigned/endorsed by the Head of the Institution (Vice Chancellor/Rector/Director).

#### **7. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The submitted research proposals will be reviewed by a committee of experts constituted by PHEC. The recommended research proposals will qualify for the grant on the final approval of the competent authority.

## 8. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION

The last date to submit the research proposals is May 29, 2017 (Monday). Applications, complete in all respect, should reach to Director, Academics & Research (A&R) PHEC on or before the deadline.

## 9. FORMAT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The Research Proposal should necessarily comprise of all the important chapters e.g. Introduction, Literature Review, Research Methodology, Data Collection & Analysis Techniques, Tentative Findings and Projected Timeline of each step. APA 6<sup>th</sup> (Revised) format should strictly be followed for the research proposals.

## 10. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Pls will submit the research proposals along with the attached budget Proforma and supporting documents in the following order.

Sr. #	Document	To be annexed as
1	Research Proposal	Annexure- A
2	Duly filled Budget Proforma	Annexure- B
3	Attested copy of CNIC	Annexure- C
4	Detailed CV	Annexure- D
5	Verified copy (from university) of the highest degree	Annexure- E
6	Details of projects previously conducted/ currently undergoing	Annexure- F

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Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC)



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### **Thematic Research Grants Budget Sheet**

Sr. #	Item/ Detail of Budget Expenses	Proposed Budget
	<b>Human Resource Expense</b>	
1	Project Allowance to Principal Investigator (@ Rs. 40,000/- per month)	4,80,000/-
2	Project Allowance to Co-investigator (@ Rs. 20,000/- per month)	2,40,000/-
3	Research Assistant (@ Rs. 15,000/- per month)	1,80,000/-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	9,00,000/-
	<b>Project Related Expenses</b>	
4	Stationary (@ Rs. 20,000/- maximum)	
6	Purchase/subscription of Databases/information/ literature etc.	
7	Data Collection (field activity)	
8	Data Processing and Analysis (@ Rs. 50,000/- maximum & one-time-payment)	
9	Binding of Final 10 copies	
10	Report Writing (@ Rs. 2,00,000/- maximum)	
11	04 CDs of the final project	
12	Fee for Technical Review Committee to be formed by PHEC @ Rs. 10,000/- per review (maximum 2 reviews)	
13	Journal Publication Fee	
14	Contingencies	
	<b>Sub-total (Should not exceed the 70% of the total expenses)</b>	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	