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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
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| 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 31st 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: 1/4th 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 1/5th of total articles |

Note: 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.

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;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.#</th>
<th>Category of Journal</th>
<th>Type of Funding</th>
<th>Maximum Limit p.a.</th>
<th>Heads of Account</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Eligibility Funding</td>
<td>Rs. 700,000/-</td>
<td>License Fee for Indexing, Honoraria to Editorial Team, Website related expenses, Reviewers Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Performance Based Funding</td>
<td>Rs. 450,000/-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Seed Funding</td>
<td>Rs. 250,000/-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Muhammad Tahir Ali Shah  
Director (R&D)  

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.  

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.  

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