



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, Islamabad (Pakistan) Phone: (051) 90802750, Fax: (051) 90802753
E-mail: ismaeel@hec.gov.pk

Ref. 1-1 (NQF)/QAD/2017/HEC/ *Sog*
Date: July 21, 2017

Muhammad Ismail

Consultant (Quality Assurance Division)

Subject: **Minimum Experience of a PhD Faculty Member to Supervise Research Theses**

1. Reference is made to HEC letter no. 1-22(NQAC)/QAD/2017/HEC/06-363 dated March 24, 2017.
2. Some universities and PhD faculty members have approached HEC for seeking clarification about the implementation of the policy enunciated vide above referred letter. It is clarified that:
 - a. The National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC) in its 22nd meeting held on January 09, 2017 approved that Universities should appoint a PhD faculty member as supervisor of PhD/MS/MPhil/Equivalent research work only after he/she has acquired minimum three (03) years of relevant teaching/research/professional experience in an HEC recognized university or research/professional organization after getting PhD degree. However, while gaining the three (03) years' experience, the faculty member should co-supervise at least two (02) PhD/MS/MPhil/Equivalent level theses along with a senior/ HEC approved PhD supervisor. The criteria to evaluate the teaching/research/professional experience in this regard are to be developed by the universities themselves and get them approved from their statutory bodies before implementation.
 - b. If a PhD faculty member has already been assigned some students who are being supervised by him/her as "Supervisor" then he/she can continue with them but cannot take new students for supervision as a "supervisor" till the time he/she has completed three (03) years' experience. Besides, a PhD faculty member who got his MS/MPhil/Equivalent degree four years ago can supervise the MS/MPhil/Equivalent program students as per policy given in HEC letter No. 1-1 (NQF)/QAD/2017/HEC/501 dated 21 July, 2017.
 - c. It is however re-iterated that a PhD supervisor can supervise (as a supervisor or co-supervisor) a total of twelve (12) PhD/MS/MPhil/Equivalent program students at a time with no more than five (05) of these being PhD students. The universities are to ensure that

Muhammad Ismail
21/7/17

no PhD faculty member takes more than prescribed number of students as supervisor / co-supervisor in his/her own or any other university.

3. The policies mentioned at clause (a) & (b) are effective from March 24, 2017 while clause (c) is effective from March 16, 2015.
4. This letter supersedes the HEC letters No. DD-QA/HEC/NQAC/2015/125 dated February 27, 2015 and 1-22(NQAC)/QAD/2017/HEC/06-363 dated March 24, 2017.
5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

With kind regards,

Muhammad Ismail
(Muhammad Ismail)
21/7/17

Distribution:-

Vice Chancellors, Rectors/Presidents of all Public & Private Sector Universities

Copy for information:-

- ES to Executive Director, HEC Islamabad
- Director General (A&C), HEC Islamabad
- Director General (SIU), HEC Islamabad
- Director General (QAA), HEC Islamabad
- Director General (A&A), HEC Islamabad
- Director General (Academics), HEC Islamabad
- Office Copy

