



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

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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

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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

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Hakim Ali Talpur
Deputy Director (Quality Assurance)

No. DD-QA/HEC/NQAC/2015/125
Date: February 27, 2015

Subject: Supervision of Students Pursuing M.S/M.Phil with Thesis by Supervisors Having M.S/M.Phil Without Thesis and Limit for Supervision of Students

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has received a number of requests seeking clarification for supervision of MS/M.Phil scholars by supervisors having degrees by coursework without research work.

The issue has been discussed in the 19th meeting of National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC) and it has been decided that faculty members having MS/M.Phil without thesis, but with relevant research or industrial experience can supervise the research of MS/M.Phil students and accordingly the criteria is to be devised by the respective University/Institution.

Moreover, as per revised policy, a supervisor can supervise a total of twelve (12) MS/M.Phil/PhD students at a time with no more than five (05) of these students being PhD students. The revised policy will be effective from March 16, 2015.

With kind regards,

(Hakim Ali Talpur)

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Ref. 1-22 (NQAC)/QAD/2017/HEC/ 06-363

Date: March 24, 2017

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

Dear Sir/ Madam,

1. 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 a 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) MS/MPhil/Equivalent level thesis along with a Senior/HEC approved PhD supervisor. The criteria to evaluate the research/professional experience in this regard are to be developed by the universities themselves and get them approved from their statutory bodies.

2. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

With kind regards,

(Sadia Bukhari)
Assistant Director (QAD)

The Registrars

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