



No. UOM/Acad/26/135

Dated: 18-May-2026

### NOTIFICATION

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Syndicate in its 66<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27-Apr-2026 [vide Agenda Item No. 13], approved adoption of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Journals & Publications Policy, 2024 (Amended up to March 2026).

Encl: (HEC Journals & Publications Policy, 2024 (Amended up to March 2026))

Assistant Registrar Academics

Copy for information and necessary action (if any) to:

1. All Deans of the Faculties
2. Heads of All Teaching Departments/Administrative Offices/Sections
3. Director QEC
4. Director IT with the request to upload the aforementioned policy on the University website
5. PS to Vice-Chancellor
6. PA to Registrar
7. Relevant File

Assistant Registrar Academics



# HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Coordination Division  
H-9, Islamabad (Pakistan)

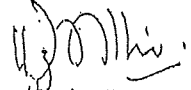
15-54/Coord/2019/R&ID/HEC/876

March 02, 2026

## Notification

In continuation of this Commission's Notification of even number dated November 11, 2025, it is hereby notified that the anticipatory approval granted by the Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), regarding the amendments in 'HEC Journals & Publications Policy, 2024' has been duly ratified by the Commission in its 13<sup>th</sup> Urgent Meeting held on February 09, 2026, with the exclusion of Clause 6(a) regarding the 'weighted authorship model'.

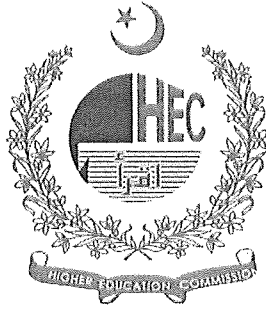
02. The necessary amendments have accordingly been incorporated, and the Revised Policy is available at <https://www.hec.gov.pk/site/journals>.

  
(Shahzaib Abbasi)  
Director (Coordination)

### Distribution:

- i. Vice Chancellors / Rectors / Heads of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- ii. Offices of the Chancellors of Public Sector HEIs
- iii. The Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Govt. of Pakistan
- iv. The Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt. of the Punjab
- v. The Secretary, Colleges, Higher & Technical Education Department, Govt. of Balochistan
- vi. The Secretary, Higher Education, Archives & Libraries Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- vii. The Secretary, Universities & Boards Department, Govt. of Sindh
- viii. The Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt. of Azad Jammu & Kashmir
- ix. PS to the Chairman, HEC
- x. PS to the Executive Director, HEC
- xi. All Divisions and Regional Centers of HEC

For enquiries, please contact, (Research & Innovation Division) | 051-90401900



**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION  
JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS POLICY-2024**

*(As Amended w.e.f November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025)  
Version 2.0*



## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS POLICY

### 1. OVERVIEW

The aim of this policy is to nurture and enhance academic and publication standards of national journals through financial support and capacity building.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The intended objective of the proposed policy for research journals is to bring academic and publication quality of the journals at par with international standards.

### 3. ACTIVITIES

The activities to be undertaken under this policy include:

- a. establishment of minimum and optimal standards, in line with international best practices, for academic review, publication quality, and ethical practices.
- b. establishment and strengthening of monitoring systems.
- c. capacity building of editorial teams; and
- d. provision of financial support and linking such support to performance, i.e., success in meeting quality criteria.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION

The following eligibility criteria must be met for purposes of registration at the time of submission of the application:

- a. **Objectives:** The journal must have clearly defined aims, objectives and scope of publication.
- b. **Transparency:** The Journal must have ISSN, title, and URL (verified from the International ISSN register). The journal's website should facilitate online availability and include an archive of previous issues. The submission process, publication fee, and sponsorships / source of funding, must be available publicly, including on the website. The journal must have published at least 5 articles per issue in the preceding calendar year.
- c. **Publisher Characteristics:** The journal must be owned and published by a registered entity, which could be university or HEI or a department of faculty of such an entity, or a registered research institution, or registered nonprofit academic society. In all such cases, the publisher should have a formal governing body, which must approve the publication decision. In case of societies and non-HEIs, the term "*Registered Entity*" means registered with the SECP or <sup>1</sup>[Registrar of Societies].

<sup>1</sup> Applicable w.e.f 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025

**\*\***Provincial registration authorities of societies may be considered only if the journal is registered under a unique name and ISSN number, ensuring there is no duplication of the journal's title or ISSN in any other district across Pakistan.



HEC Journals and Publications Policy-2024	Version	2.0
Research Journals Section, Research & Innovation Division	Effective since	5 <sup>th</sup> of Nov, 2025

<sup>3</sup> [All national and international] journals indexed in MEDLINE (PubMed) (other than those indexed in Web of Science (WOS)/Scopus)	Y
<sup>3</sup> [All national and international] journals indexed in China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) (other than those indexed in Web of Science (WOS)/Scopus)	Y
<sup>3</sup> [All national and international journals indexed in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)(other than those indexed in Web of Science (WOS)/Scopus)]	Y
National Journals Recommended by HEC's local committees	Y

- b. HEC will announce the annual Call for Applications for Accreditation of Local/National Research Journals which are not yet indexed in the HEC recognized Indexing Agencies.
- c. National research journals will be recognized as per calendar year.
- d. HJRS 2023-24 will be applicable till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Revised policy will be applicable w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 except where stated otherwise for some provisions as detailed in the footnotes.
- e. The local/national journals will be recommended for ranking in "Y" category based on the following **Mandatory Eligibility Criteria which will be checked by HEC, if cleared in initial scrutiny, will be forwarded for review:**
  - i. ISSN
  - ii. Journal Title
  - iii. Journal Publisher/Owner Organization
  - iv. The journals owned by non-profitable academic societies with the mandate for research having registration with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) or <sup>\*\*4</sup>[Registrar of Societies].
  - v. URL (Online Journals)
  - vi. Content Access
  - vii. Presence of Peer-Review Policy
  - viii. Contact Details
  - ix. Article Titles and Article Abstracts in English
  - x. Regularity/Timeliness and/or Publication Volume/Frequency
  - xi. Website Functionality/Journal Format
  - xii. Editorial board and Advisory board comprising members with PhD degrees in relevant fields (i.e., area of publication) or FCPS/FRCS/MCPS degree for medical journals and strong research and publications background. Editorial and Advisory boards are separate entities.
  - xiii. Defined policy document
  - xiv. At least two reviewers' reports for each article are required. Peer-review via OJS/Scholar One or any other online system will be encouraged.
  - xv. The journal must have published at least 5 articles per issue in the preceding calendar year.
  - xvi. A maximum of 20% self-institutional publications is allowed.
  - xvii. A maximum of one article of an author in an issue, either as principal author (1st or corresponding) or as co-author, is allowed.

<sup>4</sup> Applicable w.e.f 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025

<sup>\*\*</sup>Provincial registration authorities of societies may be considered only if the journal is registered under a unique name and ISSN number, ensuring there is no duplication of the journal's title or ISSN in any other district across Pakistan.



## 6. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

<sup>6</sup>[The maximum limit of articles published per issue is 30 regardless of frequency either monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, triannual, biannual, annual, biennial etc.

- a. It will be the responsibility of authors and universities to verify the authenticity of journals and ensure that publications are not made in hijacked or cloned journals.
- b. For recognition of journals indexed in international agencies like Web of Science and Scopus, the accreditation shall be carried out on the basis of latest available Journal Citation Report (JCR) issued by Web of Science (Clarivate) or similar report published by respective indexing agencies.]

## 7. FUNDING TO HEC RECOGNIZED RESEARCH JOURNALS

The following funding limits shall be applicable HEC recognized research journals:

- a. HEC provides seed funding up to a maximum amount (Rs.250,000) for <sup>7</sup>[only newly accredited or indexed journals from deserving public sector HEIs] Y-Category Journals; [provided that journals do not charge any publication fees, including but not limited to Article Processing Charges (APCs).
- b. Funding is allowed for national research journals in specific categories for a maximum of two years for the following purposes:
  - i. Registration with one or more well-reputed abstracting/ indexing agencies.
  - ii. Website maintenance, OJS or similar platform.
  - iii. External peer-review fee (national/international).
- c. The funding will be provided for a maximum of 2 years in each category including funds already provided by HEC. Eligible journals must apply to HEC for seed funding once a year, submitting documentary evidence confirming that they do not charge any publication fees and require financial assistance during the initial period.

## 8. MONITORING OF HEC RECOGNIZED RESEARCH JOURNALS

- a. In case of non-performance, a journal can be delisted/de-recognized, as and when necessary, in accordance with the prescribed procedure.
- b. HEC will monitor accredited national research journals through its authorized representatives/subject experts, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review administration and management of the journal at the Editor institution.
- c. Upon unsatisfactory progress of journal, both technical and financial, the journal may be considered de-recognized.
- d. Without prejudice to the HEC other rights and remedies under the law, the HEC has the right at its discretion to de-recognize the journal and require a total or partial refund of any Grant funds if such action is necessary as a result of the following circumstances:
  - i. The HEC is not reasonably satisfied with the progress of journals or the Statement of Income/Expenditures or the manner in which Income/expenditure has been incurred; or
  - ii. The Editor fail to comply with any Term and Condition of HEC. The Grantee's or the

<sup>7</sup> Applicable w.e.f 05<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025