

HEC Research Awards – Revised Policy

Introduction

1. The purpose of HEC Research Awards is to recognize and reward excellence in research, contributions to intellectual development and social welfare, and promote publications with higher impact. The award includes a certificate and a cash prize as described below.

Award Categories and Domains

2. Separate awards shall be given in three broad disciplinary domains:
 - a. Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Law, Education, Management, or Public Policy
 - b. Physical Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Computer Science, Statistics, or Mathematics
 - c. Life Sciences, Biological Sciences, Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, or Veterinary Science
3. There are three categories of awards in each disciplinary domain:
 - a. Best Researcher: A cash prize of Rs. 500,000 for research contributions judged to be of the highest quality
 - b. Best Young Researcher: A cash prize of Rs. 500,000, to a researcher under the age of 40, who is judged by the scientific panels to show the most promise of stimulating further research, addressing or resolving social problems, and enhancing the quality of research in Pakistan
 - c. Best Publication: A cash prize of Rs. 1 million to be awarded to the publication (i.e., book or journal article) that is judged by the scientific panels as likely to produce the greatest impact on human welfare, either by stimulating and opening up new areas of further research, or by contributing to the resolution of a critical problem facing Pakistan and the world at large.
4. In future, depending on the number and quality of the applications, HEC may establish additional awards, increasing the number domains in which the awards are established, or increase the number of awards in each domain.
5. In case no suitable candidate is found, the Commission may give fewer awards in any year, or no awards at all.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

6. The following table sets out the eligibility and selection criteria for each award.

Category	Eligibility Criteria	Selection Parameters
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Best Researcher	To be eligible, a candidate should have been a resident of Pakistan for at least three years prior to the 1st of January of the year of the award, and should not have received the same award earlier.	The objective of the award is to recognize and reward researchers who have contributed the most to intellectual and social development through their writings (i.e., not simply through their formal titles or positions). As such, while this is an award for a lifetime of achievement rather than a single publication or contribution, it does not preclude recognizing a single publication with a huge impact. On the other hand, the lifetime of achievement should be characterized by outstanding publications with demonstrated major impact.
Best Young Researcher	A candidate for this award should have been a resident of Pakistan for at least one year, and should not have reached the age of 40 years on the 1st of January of the year of the award.	The objective of this award is to recognize both the contribution and future potential of early career researchers in terms of their research and publications. Here, too, selection should place due weight on particular outstanding and impactful discoveries and publications.
Best Publication	The award is to be given to a scholarly book or journal article published no more than three years before the date of announcement of the award, and written by no more than three authors. All authors must have been residents of Pakistan for at least three years on the 1st of January of the year of the award. Publications that have previously been submitted for the same award are not eligible, regardless of	The objective of the award is to recognize and reward the book or article that has produced a lasting impact on future research as well as socio-economic development in the country. The focus of the selection committee should be on assessing the impact of the publication, which is to be measured in two dimensions, namely (a) socio-economic, i.e., the resolution of a problem facing society, or the creation of a product that benefits society; and (b) academic, i.e., opening up a new area of research, and stimulating other work that leads towards the resolution of social challenges.
Category	Eligibility Criteria	Selection Parameters

	<p>whether they were shortlisted. Similarly, extended version of a paper once submitted is not eligible for resubmission.</p> <p>Only books published by a recognized academic press as defined by HEC are eligible.</p> <p>Only articles published in a W-category journal in HJRS, and with a minimum citation count of 100, are eligible.</p>	<p>In this regard, the committee may use certain indicators of impact, e.g., associated patents, commercialization, conversion of recommendations into policy, and the number of citations.</p> <p>The committee may also establish standards or indicators of academic merit, e.g., the originality of the idea, the quality of the journals (e.g., HJRS score)/ publishers where the publication was published, the validity of the data analysis, and the quality and clarity of the exposition.</p> <p>However, the indicators should not be allowed to defeat the main purpose of the award, namely to reward innovative ideas that contribute to social welfare and intellectual development.</p>

Application Procedure

7. A call for proposals or nominations shall be issued on the 1st of January every year, and applications shall be due on or before 1st February.
8. Applications or nominations shall be submitted on the online HEC portal on the prescribed form along with the prescribed documents. All applications should upload the CVs of the applicants or authors, as the case might be, on the HEC portal in the prescribed manner. In addition to the standard personal and professional information, the application requires the following information:
 - a. *Statement of Contribution* (500-1000 words): the statement should set out a persuasive case for why the applicant (author or publication) is deserving of the award, pointing to the specific contributions that merit the award, and placing these in the context of the contemporary professional developments as well as the careers of the authors/ nominees.
 - b. *Three letters of support*: The award applications must include substantive letters of support from three prominent individuals, who are broadly representative of the candidate's field or related fields, and who can provide evidence of the lasting impact of the particular publication or candidate, as well as any additional insights or evidence that may be relevant. The endorsers should also be registered on HEC's professional portal.
 - c. *Draft Citation*: The applications should include a draft citation of up to 300 words, which describes succinctly the achievements, impact, or potential, for which the award is being granted.

- d. *Copies of Publications:* Applications for the publication award should include a copy of published article or book. In case of journal articles, this should be an electronic copy or link. In case of books, a physical copy will be accepted.

Selection Process

9. Three Scientific Panels will be constituted, one in each broad disciplinary domain, to evaluate the nominations/ applications. Each Panel will comprise three members with subject expertise of the relevant disciplines.
10. Depending on breadth and number of applications, the Panels may engage external reviewers to assess contributions in different disciplines or sub-disciplines.
11. Panel Members and Reviewers shall be compensated for their time in accordance with HEC rules.
12. The Panels shall assess the applications on the basis of the objectives and evaluation criteria of the awards.
13. The Panels shall recommend the awards to the HEC. However, the Commission has the right to reject the recommendations if the work is not considered to be up to the mark.
14. The Panels will review the draft citations submitted by the candidates, and endorse it, after any editing that may be necessary.
15. Prior to appointment, Panel Members have to submit a Conflict of Interest statement in accordance with the HEC Policy in this regard.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES, ISLAMABAD
OFFICE OF PRO-RECTOR R&SI

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Notification



1. As approved by the worthy Rector, the subject committee is constituted as per the following:

i. Rector NUML	Chair
ii. President ICCI	Co-Chair
iii. Pro-Rector R&SI	Member
iv. Pro-Rector Academics	Member
v. Dean FMS	Member
vi. CEO-Alfoz Technologies	Member
vii. CEO-Creditper/Chairman The Hive	Member
viii. CEO-R-Wish Private Ltd	Member
ix. CEO-(Rapidev Pvt Ltd)	Member
x. Manager Research (ORIC)	Secretary



Dr. Fazl Subhan
Manager Research Management
Office of Pro-Rector, R&SI

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CC:

PSO to Rector 