

# Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme for Women in Higher Education 2017-18

Final Report

March 2018

Contact:

[redacted]

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## Introduction

In spite of the Pakistani Government's commitment to improving the status of education in Pakistan, the number of out of school children continues to remain high. 13.7 million, a staggering 55%, of these out of school children are girls. Various factors such as discrimination, conservatism, lack of access to schools, missing facilities, teacher absenteeism and so on result in the fact that of the poorest 20%, a tragic 2 in 3 girls do not go to school.

For the girls who do succeed in attaining 12 years of critical education, attaining higher education becomes an even bigger challenge, particularly for those who live in rural areas or in regions where women are discouraged from pursuing higher education.

The patterns on severe gender exclusion are similar across all provinces and sub-sectors of education in Pakistan where poorest females are most disadvantaged and do not have equal opportunity of enrolling in schools and universities.

Despite improvements in creating awareness on the role of women in governance, civil society and corporate sector, Pakistani women still face significant difficulties in upward mobility in their careers. Due to deeply ingrained gender disparities only a significantly low number of women in Pakistan are able to attain higher education. Moreover, the cost of education and the low perceived returns on investment further hinder access to higher education, especially for girls and women.

With a total of 49% female population<sup>1</sup>, if Pakistan is to achieve economic and social prosperity, it must ensure that its female population is given access to equal education opportunities so that they too may contribute to long term sustainable development.

The Scottish Scholarship Scheme for Women aims to make higher education more accessible to underprivileged girls across Pakistan by providing them with scholarships in the fields of:

- Education
- Sustainable energy
- Agriculture and food security
- Health sciences
- STEM education

Since it was first launched in 2013, over 400 young women have benefitted from the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme across Pakistan. Now in its fourth cycle, these scholarships continue to assist ambitious women from disadvantaged background in pursuing masters' degrees in fields that are of critical importance to the overall development of the country. These scholarships not only allow for increased female participation in higher education but it will promote greater gender equality in fields that women in Pakistan don't typically pursue.

In the current cycle, this project aims to impact an additional 200 plus direct beneficiaries by giving them the opportunity to specialize in fields, such as food security, education and health sciences that require urgent attention and greater focus.

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<sup>1</sup> Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2015

To encourage women to pursue education beyond master’s level, this scheme also offers PhD Travel Grants to women who are currently enrolled in PhD programs in Pakistani universities, presenting them with the opportunity to conduct research in Scottish Universities. . Based on the success of the travel grant in the previous cycle, this grant is being offered in the current cycle as well.

Given that these fields are of critical importance, through acquiring higher education, beneficiaries will develop the capacity and skills to contribute to the economic and social development of Pakistan.

## Promotions and Announcement

The 2017-18 cycle of scholarships was launched in June 2017 and the promotion of the scheme was initiated by placing advertisements in leading Urdu and English newspapers that have one of the highest circulations in Pakistan.

The team then identified a list of Higher Education Commission – the primary overseeing and regulating body of higher education in Pakistan – accredited universities and made contact with admissions and/or financial aid offices. University officers were requested to share the opportunity with all students informing them of the opportunity. The British Council designed and dispatched posters advertising the scholarships which were then displayed in common areas across university campuses.

In addition, a series of promotional activities were also carried out on social media, primarily using platforms like Facebook. The scholarship was also advertised using sponsored ads such as that in the HEC monthly magazine to ensure reach out to maximum number of people. These promotions were shared widely over social media by viewers, university administration and potential applicants.

**برطانوی کونسل پاکستان اسکالرشپ اسکیم 2017-18**

**اسکالرشپ اسکیم کے مفروضات:**

- اس اسکالرشپ اسکیم کے تحت HEC کی جانب سے منظور شدہ تمام پاکستانی جامعات میں داخلہ یافتہ طالب علموں اور اساتذہ کرام کو اپنا درخواست دینے کی سہولت پیش کی جاتی ہے۔
- اسکالرشپ اسکیم کے تحت اساتذہ کرام اور طالب علموں کو اپنا درخواست دینے کی سہولت پیش کی جاتی ہے۔
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## PAKISTAN SCOTTISH SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME 2017-18

**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

The Scottish Government is providing scholarship opportunities for young Pakistani women from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue Master's degrees in Pakistani universities with the aim of supporting women achieve their potential and ambition, and helping them secure their futures.

The British Council in Pakistan will administer the scheme in Pakistan and directly coordinate with the selected scholars and universities.

**THE AWARD**

Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme will facilitate award-holders with the following incentives:

- Tuition fees for Master's degree courses
- University hostel costs
- Subsistence to the award holder
- Travel to and from home to university three times a year for students staying in on-campus hostels

**HOW TO APPLY**

- **Applying online:**  
The online application form can be filled and submitted on the official British Council website, at the link: <https://www.britishcouncil.pk/programmes/education/scholarships>
- **Applying via courier:**  
Application forms can also be downloaded here: <https://www.britishcouncil.pk/programmes/education/scholarships>

Completed applications should be sent via courier to the British Council Islamabad office at the following address:

**Pakistan Scottish Scholarships Scheme**  
British Council Pakistan  
PO Box 1135, Islamabad

**DEADLINE** Last date to submit the application is **10 September 2017**

**SUBJECT AREAS**

The scholarship will cover a Master's degree at any HEC-recognised university of Pakistan in one of the following subject areas:

- Education
- Sustainable Energy
- Food Security and Agriculture
- Health Sciences
- STEM Engineering

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Only female applicants are eligible to apply
- Applicants must be Pakistani nationals, currently residing in Pakistan
- Applicants must hold a confirmed offer from an HEC-recognised university in Pakistan
- Only applicants who are undertaking a one or two-year Master's programme will be eligible to apply
- Young women from rural areas are encouraged to apply

For further information or queries, please write to us at [ps3@britishcouncil.org.pk](mailto:ps3@britishcouncil.org.pk) or call our toll free number 0800-22000

## Shortlisting

This year, we received over 5000 online and over 600 paper applications for master's degrees and over 500 applications for the PhD Travel Grant. A detailed database was created in MS Excel which was then used for screening and shortlisting of all applications submitted.

The applications were shortlisted in 3 rounds. The first shortlisting was based on the following criteria:

- Completed application
- Gender
- Nationality
- Relevance of field
- Level of education applied for (i.e. bachelors, masters, PhD)

The Second shortlisting was based on the following criteria:

- Confirmation of admission
- Family income
- CGPA

The third and final shortlisting was based on the quality of personal statements submitted. These statements allowed for a better understanding of the applicants need and passion for their respective fields:

A "Shortlisting Criteria Score Card" was developed to ensure fair marking and a panel of five British Council colleagues from different SBUs were selected to participate in the shortlisting process. The scorecard is as below:

	Criteria	Remarks	Score
1	Degree of clarity on subject focus		
2	Display of need for scholarship in Application. (Refer to monthly household income & number of household members)		
3	Does candidate's purpose statement & academic performance reflect her passion & competence for pursuing the masters degree?		
4	Will the applicant be able to contribute to their respective sectors?		
5	Overall Application		

	<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	
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Very Weak	Weak	Satisfactory	Strong	Very Strong
1	2	3	4	5

A similar shortlisting process was followed for selection of candidates for the PhD Travel Grant as well. Given that applications submitted were highly technical, a panel of HEC professional was put together to assist with the shortlisting of these candidates.

### **Selection Process**

Of the applications submitted a total of 234 candidates were shortlisted from over 50 universities across Pakistan. A list of universities can be found in **Annex A**. After the initial shortlisting, candidates underwent an interview process for final selection. Focal persons nominated in each of the universities verified all information submitted by applicants and assisted in setting up interviews.

Majority of the universities have a scholarship committee already in place to implement any scholarship schemes the students can benefit from and therefore have the experience and knowledge of conducting interviews for the purpose. In cases where committees didn't already exist, the focal person in charge put together a panel following the guidelines provided by British Council.

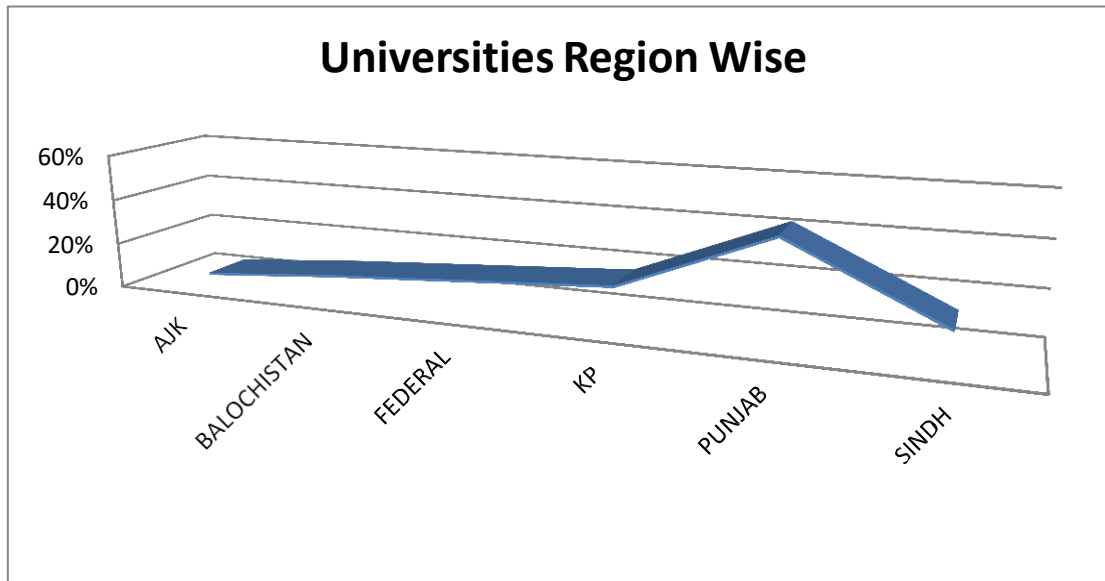
Standardised interview guidelines (**Annex B**) were provided to the universities to ensure all outlined procedures were followed. Where possible, British Council staff participated in the interview process as well to ensure rules and guidelines were being followed. In addition to the guidelines, British Council also provided university focal persons with an interview evaluation sheet (Annex C) and criteria form to ensure transparency of candidate selection.

To assist with the final selection of applicants for the PhD Travel Grant, the British Council requested the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to conduct interviews and assist in the selection of the most deserving candidates.

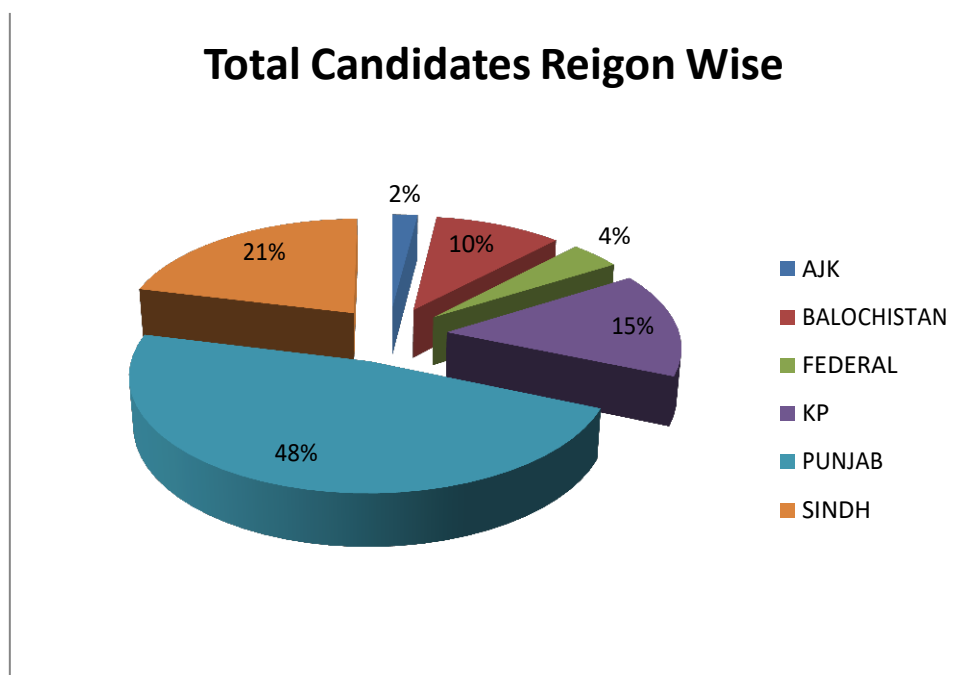
### **Final Figures**

A total of 173 applicants were awarded the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship this year. These students were selected from 23 different universities, of which about 43% are located in Punjab, 17% in KP, 13% each in ICT and Sindh, 9% in Baluchistan and 4% in AJK.

The variance in the percentages can be explained by that fact that Punjab is one of the largest provinces and has the most number of universities, while AJK is much smaller by comparison and has fewer universities. The graph below gives a visual representation of the breakdown of universities region wise.

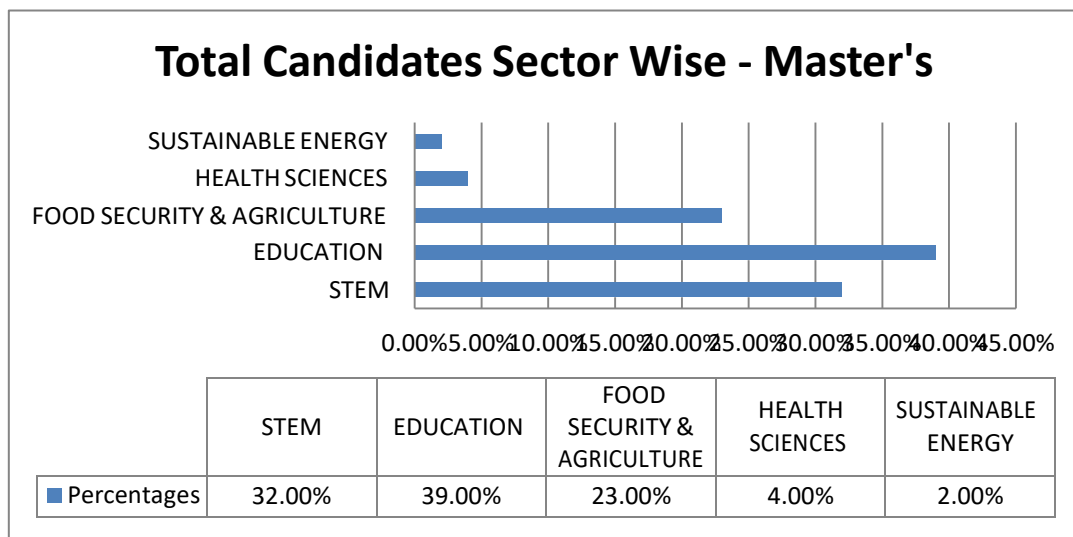


Similar to the trend above, most number of scholarship recipients were from Punjab. The pie chart below shows that 82 scholarship recipients (47 % of the total) were from Punjab, 36 (21 %) from Sindh, 26 (15%) from KP, and 18 (10%) from Baluchistan. AJK and Federal both has 2% (4 recipients) and 4% (7) respectively.

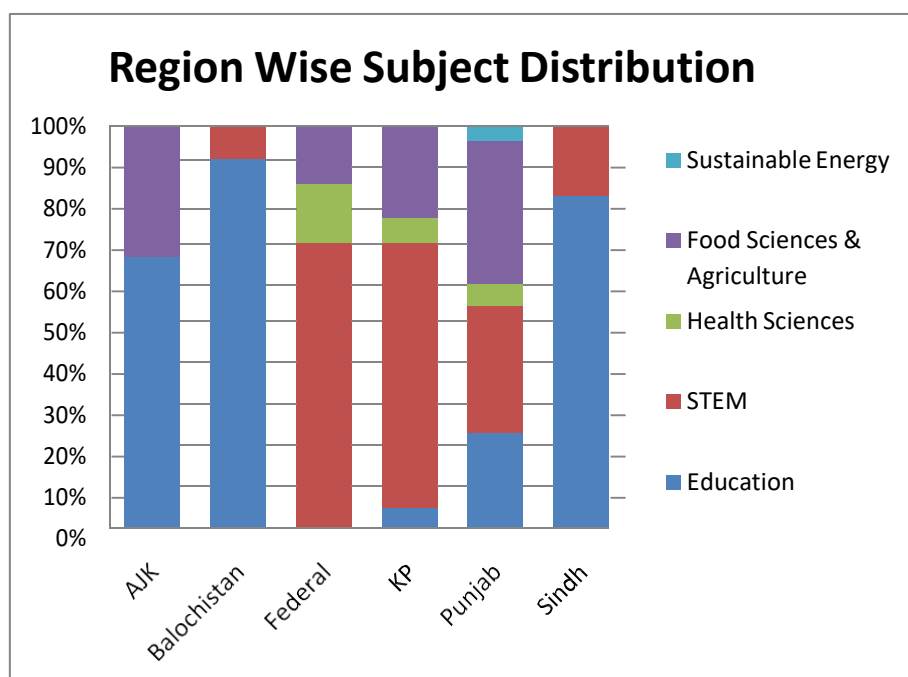


In terms of scholarships per field, most number of scholarships were awarded to those pursuing degrees in Education simply because the most number of applications were received for this field. In comparison, Health Science received the least number of applications and thus only 4% of the total scholarships awarded were in the health sciences field. STEM degrees were also very popular. However it should be noted, that in comparison to the other fields, STEM degrees are more costly and even though a lot of applications were received, budget restrictions meant that the number of scholarships awarded were limited.





The figure below shows a breakdown of scholarships awarded in each field by region. As per the figure below, most number of STEM scholarships were awarded in KP and the Federal regions. In AJK, Baluchistan and Sindh most number of Education scholarships were awarded.



## Monitoring and Evaluation

An update of funds disbursement of the 2017 cycle is now due with the start of spring semester in universities from March onwards and will be requested from university partners in May 2017. The interim report for this cycle from university partners will be requested in November 2018 as some of the recipients will be graduating in August 2017.

This year standardised reporting tools will be shared with universities. Our internal monitoring and evaluation team is working with the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship team to develop an improved M&E framework for the 2017-18 cycle.

## Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Alumni Association

Given that the Scottish Scholarship Scheme is now in its fourth cycle, the British Council launched the “Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Alumni Association” in March. The aim of this association is to allow for past and current candidates to share experiences and exchange knowledge. Further, this Alumni Association aims to provide scholarship recipients with a platform for professional collaborations.

Launched on the International Women’s Day, the Association is currently in the process of registering candidates and developing an Alumni Network.



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# British Council launches Pak Scottish Scholarship Scheme Alumni Assoc

**ISLAMABAD:** The British Council Pakistan has announced the launch of Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme Alumni Association. This will provide the scholarship recipients with a platform to share ideas and knowledge, says a Press release.

Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme for Women in Higher Education was initiated by the Scottish Government in collaboration with British Council in 2013. The programme provides scholarship opportunities for young women from disadvantaged backgrounds to study at Masters Level in Pakistani universities.

The scholarship is offered to female students enrolled in Masters in the fields of education, agriculture and food security, sustainable energy and

health sciences. These subject areas are highly relevant to Pakistan in terms of current challenges and future opportunities, thus contributing to the overall growth of Pakistan.

British Council has announced the launch of an alumni programme set up for women who benefited from this scheme. This alumni association will allow for candidates to share experiences, exchange knowledge and share opportunities of professional development. It will also act as a platform for professional collaborations.

So far, over 300 women from Pakistan have received this scholarship to go on to pursue their higher education and contribute to a growing economy. A database of scholarship winners will be developed using an online

portal designed for the award winners.

The scholarship recently completed its third cycle, and is set to launch fourth cycle in June/July 2017. The women scholars will receive financial support to achieve their educational ambitions which, due to financial constraints, they were unable to do so.

The Country Director, British Council Pakistan Rosemary Hillhorst said: "I see a lot of women eager to pursue higher education. It is very encouraging to see that women are aspiring to be part of Pakistan's future leadership, who will go on to shape opinions. We are celebrating International Women's Day today and I would like to step up our commitment to make sustainable development a reality and leave no woman or girl behind."

## **Success Stories**

The Pakistan Scottish Scholarship made it possible for me to complete my M.Sc degree in Soil Science. Because of this scholarship I was able to complete my masters and can now pursue a PhD as well. None of this would have been possible without the British Council and funding from the Scottish Government.

**[redacted]**, Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Recipient

I am honoured to be one of the recipients of the Pak-Scottish Scholarship 2017. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous support that you have provided me through this scholarship. I am very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. This scholarship has lessened my financial burden and has enabled me to focus more on the most important aspect of higher education i.e. learning. This scholarship has allowed me to not only maintain focus on my studies and research but also has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of a higher education. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like your organization.

**[redacted]**, Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Recipient

I would like to thank British Council and the Scottish Government for awarding me Pakistan Scottish Scholarship. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to continue my studies and this scholarship has reshaped my life. Since I don't have to worry about financing my education anymore, I can more fully focus on my studies and research. I have secured 3.67/4 CGPA, and am doing my master's thesis on "liaison between parenting styles and emotional intelligence among teenagers". This topic is related to parent child relationship and the impact it can have on the child's emotional intelligence.

**[redacted]**, Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Recipient

## **Still to Come**

Over the course of the next few months the following activities will be taking place:

- Award ceremonies

- Brief documentary on the impact of Scottish funding in Pakistan

## Annex

Annex A – List of universities candidates were shortlisted from

Sr No	University Name
1	[redacted]University Mardan
2	[redacted]University Karachi
3	[redacted]Open University
4	Armed Forces Post Graduate Medical Institute (NUMS)
5	[redacted]University Multan
6	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Abbotabad
7	COMSATS Institute of Technology Attock
8	COMSATS Institute of Technology Islamabad
9	Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education, Karachi
10	FAST - NUCES Peshawar Campus
11	FAST University of Emerging Sciences, Karachi
12	GC women University Faisalabad, Madina Town Faisalabad
13	Gomal University D I khan
14	Government College University Faisalabad
15	IBA Sukkur
16	Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Peshawar
17	Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan
18	Islamia University of Bahawalpur
19	King Edward Medical University
20	Lahore College For Women University
21	Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro
22	Mirpur University of Sciences & Technology
23	Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan
24	National College of Business Administration and Economic Lahore
25	National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST),Islamabad
26	NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi
27	PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi
28	Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
29	Riphah international university islamabad
30	Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Quetta
31	Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur
32	Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam
33	UET Peshawar
34	UET Taxila
35	UET, Lahore
36	University of Agriculture Faisalabad
37	University of Agriculture Peshawar
38	University of Balochistan, Quetta

39	University of Education, Lahore
40	University of Gujrat
41	University of Haripur
42	University of Karachi
43	University of Lahore
44	University of Peshawar
45	University of Poonch, Rawalakot, AK
46	University of Punjab, Gujrawala - Candidate left
47	University of Punjab, Lahore
48	University of Sargodha
49	University of Sindh
50	University of Turbat, Turbat
51	University of Vetenary and Animal Science Lahore
52	University of Wah-Candidate not enrolled
53	Virtual University

## Annex B - Guidelines for final selection interviews

### **Guidelines for Final Selection Interviews**

Thank you for your support in implementing the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme 2017-18. The guidelines below have been designed to assist you with the selection interviews.

#### **Interview Panel**

The interview panel should consist of at least two members and must be selected in a way that ensures transparency. An interview evaluation sheet (shared with you) must be filled out for each candidate being interviewed.

For universities with more than one shortlisted student, interviewers are requested to rank the candidates according to their interview result. Therefore, in the event that multiple candidates get the same score, the panel will rank them from 1 – n, 1 being the most preferred candidate.

Please note the final selection will be done by the British Council once all the scores and evaluation sheets have been shared with us.

#### **Criteria and scoring**

These interviews will result in final selection of candidates. They reevaluate merit and need of the candidate and assess other factors such as minority and disability. Each criterion is explained below:

- 1. Minority and Disability Assessment:** This sections aims to understand where the candidate falls in the minority and/ or disability preference. A special provision has been made for candidates who belong to minority groups or and disability and all the shortlisted candidates falling in this category will be automatically selected. Therefore while interviewing it would

help to encourage candidates to understand the importance of sharing this information truly.

2. **Need Assessment:** The Scottish Scholarship Scheme is need based primarily and aims to provide opportunities to underprivileged women in Pakistan to help build a secure future for themselves and their families. A number of women are unable to pursue higher education in Pakistan primarily because they cannot afford to do so. Our culture indicates a preference of men being encouraged more than women in families that cannot afford education for all family members to pursue education.

This section therefore aims to assess the need these candidates have of the scholarship. A preference will be given to those who are able to convince that they truly need the scholarship to be able to pursue their education. Candidates who already are receiving any other financial aid or scholarship will be automatically disqualified. To assess need it is important to evaluate the monthly household income, if it's reliable and stable or not, the number of dependent household members and whether or not the candidate will be able to pursue education without the scholarship. Please feel free to cross questions and ask questions that you think will help the panel understand this better.

3. **Merit Assessment:** Merit also plays a role in the selection of the candidate. Deserving candidates are those that not only need the scholarship but plan on making contributions to the society and their respective communities. The candidate will be assessed on how well she is able to convince the panel of her positive contribution after the completion of her degree.

Please note, you may ask additional questions that would help you make a better assessment of the candidates need and merit.

**Total Score: The total score will be given out of five agreed by all panel members as a combination of the criteria shared above. Only one sheet is to be filled per candidate.**

#### **Information and documentation required by the scholarship focal point**

The attached sheet of students contains information provided by them to us. It is requested to please correct any incorrect information. Some candidates often misrepresent facts on their application about their degree title to be able to qualify for this scholarship. It is therefore so it is requested to mark such candidates.

The university focal point is requested to ask candidates to bring all the missing documentation with them to the interview and submit it. Candidates with missing documentation will not be considered. The missing documentation could include:

- i. missing CNIC for themselves or their parents and/or guardian
- ii. proof of income which needs to specify the amount of monthly income of the household which could be a pay slip, pension slip etc. and in cases where it is not available and affidavit must be provided
- iii. proof of admission in the programme stated. It must either be MS, MSc, MA or Med only in areas related to education, health sciences, agriculture and food security or sustainable energy. The candidate must be currently enrolled in the programme stated and MPhil students will be ineligible
- iv. transcript, result card or degree of the last completed degree

- v. all of the above or none in cases of those who have submitted all the documentation already

A copy of the interview evaluation sheet must be submitted as well signed by the panel members

A copy of the data sheet attached by the name 'candidate scholarship details' is to be completely filled by the scholarships focal point. It will state the total scholarship that will be disbursed to the recipient including tuition fee for the degree, living cost of no more than 3000 per month (the amount is less for small towns), hostel fee if applicable, travel to and from home three times a year for hostelite only. The total amount disbursed to the selected candidate will be according to this amount provided. The living costs will only be provided for academic periods of the year which is usually nine to ten months per year.

Annex C - Interview Evaluation Sheet

### **Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme- Women in Higher Education: Interview Evaluation Sheet 2017-18**

**Candidate Details:**

Full Name	
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**Minority and disability Assessment:**

The United Nations describes a disabled person as “someone who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.

Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Islam <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Christianity</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sikh</span> Other: _____
Religious Sect (please specify if non sunni)	
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
If yes please specify	



**Based on the quality of answers, please allot marks against each of the following questions, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest. When marking, please bear in mind that these scholarships are to be awarded on the basis of need and merit.**

**Need Assessment:**

- I. Who are the earning members of the family and what is (are) the source(s) of income?

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
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- II. What is the estimated monthly total income of the household? How many dependent family members are there in your household and what are the total number of family members of the household

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
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- III. Are you currently receiving any other scholarship or financial aid

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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- IV. How do you plan on paying for your masters if you are unable to secure this income

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
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- V. Why is the scholarship important to you and how will it make a difference in your life and the life of your family members

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Merit Assessment:**

- I. Please specify the last completed degree and university the degree was obtained from

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
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II. What was the GPA/ final score achieved?

1	<input type="text"/>	2	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	5	<input type="text"/>
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III. How will you utilise your degree and what are your plans after graduation?

1	<input type="text"/>	2	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	5	<input type="text"/>
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**Total score obtained (to be filled by the panel) out of five**

<b>Total score</b>	
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