

Document of Understanding

Between

The Higher Education Commission, Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
And

Universita' degli Studi di Brescia

For

Research Training of PhD Students at Università degli Studi di Brescia

1. Introduction

The Higher Education Commission (hereafter HEC) Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and legally represented by Dr. Hassan Jalil Shah, its Advisor, Human Resource Development and the Università degli Studi di Brescia (University of Brescia in the following) based in Piazza del Mercato 15, 25123 Brescia (Italy) and legally represented by its Rector, Prof. Maurizio Tira, in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit through friendly negotiation hereby agree to establish a collaborative arrangement for the purpose of providing high quality research training to qualified PhD students from HEC at University of Brescia.

2. Program Overview

Selected Pakistani students will enrol in a University of Brescia PhD research program and undertake study in all University of Brescia Departments.

3. University of Brescia Selection Criteria

Students will meet the normal selection criteria for entry to a University of Brescia PhD program including academic performance and English language requirements.

4. Candidate Numbers & Application Conditions

University of Brescia will admit up to six (6) HEC scholarship students per year for 5 years, starting in 2020 under the conditions of this DOU. Applicants must meet the requirements of the HEC Scholarship Program. The standard duration of a PhD program is 36 months and can be extended to a maximum duration of 48 months including the period needed for the evaluation of external reviewers.

5. Entry Criteria

5.1 Candidates must hold a letter of offer (Offer) for a PhD program at University of Brescia. They must fulfil the relevant academic entry requirements set by University of Brescia, including a high level of English language proficiency.

5.2 Candidates should satisfy the selection criteria set out by HEC.

- 5.3** Candidates should directly apply for HEC Overseas Scholarships before the application deadline set by HEC. HEC based on selection criteria which includes HEC Aptitude test (on the pattern of International GRE) and candidate's academic achievements will shortlist best of best applicants and list of shortlisted applicants will be shared with the HEC partner Institutes. HEC will advise shortlisted applicants to apply for admission to University of Brescia.
- 5.4** Candidates should then apply to University of Brescia for consideration for a University of Brescia tuition fee scholarship before the appropriate deadline(s) set by University of Brescia.
- 5.5** University of Brescia will evaluate the candidates. Each year, University of Brescia will provide each qualified and selected candidate with a copy of an Offer for admission and will provide HEC with a shortlist of successful candidates, together with a copy of the Offer for each shortlisted candidate selected by University of Brescia through its evaluation process. This Offer should, wherever possible, be unconditional in terms of academic performance and English language capability. The Offer should also clarify that University of Brescia will not apply any tuition fee (with the exception of the mandatory Regional enrolment tax to be paid each year, about 140 € in 2020) for the maximum period of 48 months, subject to the applicant receiving confirmation of HEC's funding support for the same period. The University of Brescia will reserve to students with HEC scholarship an appropriate work space and access to University data-sharing networks, including access for free to online and printed journals the Library subscribed to, while they are enrolled in the PhD programme.
- 5.6** After receiving an Admission Offer letter from University of Brescia, candidates who were already short-listed for HEC scholarships must also apply to HEC for the official confirmation of funding.
- 5.7** HEC will evaluate the candidates according to HEC requirements and priorities, in order to make a decision about their applications. HEC will inform University of Brescia of the final results of the HEC selection process.

6. Funding Model

HEC will provide each HEC sponsored University of Brescia PhD candidate with a living allowance of Euro 12,000 per year paid monthly and a return international airfare to Italy, where University of Brescia is located by the most economical route, for the entire period of their PhD studies up to a maximum of 48 months.

HEC will pay the stipend (living allowance) to the University of Brescia for further disbursement to scholars on monthly basis. Scholars who do not complete PhD studies within 48 months, need to quit the PhD Program.

7. Candidates' Progress

University of Brescia conducts an annual progress review for all enrolled PhD candidates to evaluate their performance. University of Brescia will provide HEC on an annual basis the assessment of the progress of each HEC sponsored PhD candidate.

8. Research Areas

Scholarships will be offered in all areas of knowledge that are being offered at University of Brescia. However, the HEC will prioritize subject area every year according to national needs and will communicate to UNIBS by the month of April which PhD Programs of the University of Brescia will be eligible for the applicants.

9. Arrival Schedule

University of Brescia PhD annual cycles commence in November each year.

10. University of Brescia and HEC Liaison

University of Brescia will appoint the Scholarships and Admissions Manager as the nominated contact for liaison with all HEC Scholarship students. HEC will nominate Project Director / Project Manager overseas scholarship as the nominated contact for liaison with University of Brescia.

11. University Policies & Italian Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act

Candidates studying at University of Brescia on an Italian student visa will be subject to and covered by all University of Brescia policies relevant to higher degree by research students, and all obligations the University of Brescia maintains through its ongoing compliance to the [Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act] Doctoral School Regulations.

12. Term, Duration, Renewal, Termination & Amendment of the Agreement

This DoU shall continue for **five years** commencing from the first intake of students in 2021. It may be terminated by either party at any time by giving six months prior (written) notice to the other party. The DoU may be amended at any time in writing by mutual agreement of University of Brescia and HEC.

If this DoU expires or is terminated, it will continue to be in place for those students enrolled or accepted at the date of expiry or at the date of the termination notice. These candidates will continue to receive financial support in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Tuition Fee scholarship provided by University of Brescia and the maintenance allowance awarded by HEC.

12.1 HEC and University of Brescia undertake not to engage in any act, which may result in the Administering Organization contravening an Italian Sanctions Law. For the purposes of this clause, Italian Sanctions Law means any law prohibiting or restricting dealings with proscribed states, persons or entities or seeking to prevent the proliferation of weapons, including but not limited to laws implementing the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

13. Intention to Cooperate

This Document of Understanding expresses the future intention of HEC and University of Brescia and does not create any legally binding relationship between the parties, or confer any legal rights or impose any legal obligations on either of them. If the parties (either alone or with other persons) ultimately agree to undertake a particular project or initiative, then the terms and conditions of that project or initiative shall be the

subject of a formal agreement or other instrument between the parties (and, if applicable, including any third parties) as negotiated by the parties.

14. Media and Publicity


Any public or announcements or statements (including to the media) about any of the matters dealt with in this Document of Understanding will first be agreed between the parties before their release or publication.

On behalf of

On behalf of

Higher Education Commission
Government of the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan

University of Brescia
Italy


Name: **Dr. Hassan Jalil Shah**
Title: Advisor HRD

Name: **Prof. Maurizio Tira**
Title: Rector

Date: 3 December 2020

Date: _____