

**1st International Conference on Assessing Quality
Higher Education in Pakistan**
11-13 Dec, 2006
Pearl Continental Lahore



**Quality Education in Pakistan
International Community**

Yousuf Almas
Chief Executive

Sohaib Ahmed Khan
Project Manager

Quality Education in Pakistan

International Community

A quality education is a basic requirement in global employment market. Today's young generation need access to quality education more than ever to compete in global market.

The quality of higher education includes the physical facilities as well as the faculty, curriculum and the actual dynamics of teaching and learning. The target of quality higher education can only be achieved by bringing some revolutionary changes to ensure better planning, more funding, enhanced physical facilities, ongoing monitoring, meaningful research, good faculty, faculty training, relevant syllabuses, effective classroom dynamics and better educational governance. Total quality of higher education requires from an institution to utilize all its resources effectively and efficiently towards delighting of its students for sustainable competitive advantages by smooth process, better participation and involvement of all kind of human resource and strategic quality plan.

FLOW OF FOREIGN STUDENTS-GLOBAL TREND

Countries have recorded spectacular increases in the number of foreign students. Higher education is the fifth largest service export of the USA . American earning from foreign students has dramatically risen up from \$11 billions to \$13 billions within last few years. Thus, Germany , with 203,757 foreign students occupies now the third position, behind the USA with 500,000 foreign students and the United Kingdom . However, incoming student flows continue to be concentrated towards a limited number of countries mainly USA, United Kingdom, Germany and France, with notable increases recorded also by Japan, Australia, Spain, the Netherlands and other west European countries with significant expansion in India and China as well.

China is emerging as the 21st century's supreme power on the map of the world. China has made spectacular advancements in

almost every field of the industry. For this reason, Chinese institutions are known all over the world for quality education and have experienced a magnificent increase in the number of foreign students over last few years.

India has also opened its doors for the international students. It is also inviting a large number of students from Muslim countries as well. In this way India is strengthening its position in Muslim and Pakistan friendly countries. It is well know that foreign students benefit the host country not only in financial terms but also benefit by supporting the strategies and portraying its good image in their homelands as they have learned what the host country wants them to learn. Hence, we need to ponder upon this issue as well.

FLOW OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO PAKISTAN

Pakistan holds the same level of attraction for the Middle Eastern Students as America or United Kingdom hold for Pakistani students. Pakistani education system is more advanced as compared to Middle Eastern countries.

A number of students from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Oman Jordon, Sudan, Somalia and other African countries come to Pakistan for their higher studies. Pakistani institutions, relevant ministries and authorities can accelerate this flow of students by minimizing the problems and unnecessary hurdles.

Although the higher education in Pakistan is the cheapest in this region, a number of students now prefer India, as Indian visa processing system is unproblematic for International students. Table given below shows the difference in tuition fees of different countries.

Annual Tuition fees for Undergraduate Courses (in US\$)

Country	Arts	Science	Professional
Pakistan (Self Financed)	500-1000	500-1500	650 – 10000
India	2000-2600	2000-5000	8000-20000
Australia	5400-8600	8000-10500	15000-19100

UK	8100-16200	8100-17150	13900-27200
US (public)	7000-1000	7000-10000	-
US (private)	16000-20000	16000-20000	-
Canada	2700-9400	2300-9400	2500-10000
Singapore	3600	3600	10200

ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT SCHEMES

Foreign students can get admission in Pakistani institutions through Ministry of Education under cultural and Educational Exchange Programmes in different disciplines. However, here I will focus only on admission of Foreign Students in Professional fields like Medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering.

Foreign students can seek admission in Pakistani institutions under different schemes including Pakistan Technical Assistant Programme (PTAP) and Self Finance Scheme.

PAKISTAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (PTAP).

Under this scheme quota is fixed country wise and students admitted pay nominal fee to the institutions concerned normally at par with local Pakistani students. The main purpose of this scheme is to earn goodwill of friendly Countries. Under PTAP following number of seats are annually offered to friendly countries.

Discipline	Seats Offered
MBBS	150
BDS	28
Pharm.D	59
B.Sc Engineering	145
Total	382

These 382 seats are for the students of 45 different countries. Major beneficiary countries include Saudi Arabia , Palestine , Jordon , Nepal , Iran , Sudan , Mauritius , Malaysia , Somalia , Yemen , Bangladesh and Sri Lanka .Out of 382 seats 32 seats (MBBS;15 BDS;2 PHARMACY;2ENGINEERING;13 are reserved for Foreign National of Pakistan Origin

SELF FINANCING SCHEME (SFS).

This scheme is for the foreign students and Pakistanis having foreign nationality. Seats are reserved in almost every institution under this scheme. Fee structure is relatively high as compared to PTAP. There is no fixed quota for any country. 237 seats are reserved in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Engineering. Institutions can also offer admission in other fields as well. Distribution is made on year to year basis keeping in view number of requests received from each category.

Discipline	Seats Offered
MBBS	76
BDS	13
Pharm.D	82
B.Sc. Engineering	66
Total	237

Fee Rates Being Charged In Medical Colleges Under SFS;

Average per annum fee for Medicine and Dentistry is US \$6000, for Pharmacy US \$1000 and for B.Sc. Engineering annual fee is US \$2000. Foreign student self finance scheme is the only major revenue generation scheme for institutions and a source of earning foreign exchange for the country. Institutions can overcome their fiscal constraints by inviting more and more students from Middle East, Africa and overseas Pakistanis. Government may increase the number of seats while keeping the number of seats for local students unchanged.

There are only 4 seats for foreign national students in King Edward Medical University , Lahore . If the university accommodates 10 students every year then KEMU can earn $10,000 * 10 * 5 = \$500,000 = \text{RS } 30,000,000$ per year on tuition fee only.

Name of College/ University	Exiting Seats	Proposed Seats	Tuition fee* P/A & P/S
King Edward Medical University , Lahore	04	10	\$10,000
Allama Iqbal Medical College , Lahore	04	10	\$10,000
Fatima Jinnah Medical College , Lahore	04	10	\$10,000
Rawalpindi Medical College , Rawalpindi	04	10	\$7,000
Punjab Medical College , Faisalabad	04	10	\$5,000
Nishter Medical College , Multan	04	10	\$7,000
Quaid-I-Azam Medical College , Bahawalpur	04	10	\$5,000
Sheikh Zayed Medical College , Rahimyar Khan	02	10	\$5,000
Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Lahore	02	10	\$10,000
Dow Medical College , Karachi	08	10	\$6,000
Sindh Medical College , Karachi	08	10	\$6,000
Liaquat Medical College , Jamshoro	18	18	\$4,000
Chandka Medical College , Larkana	06	10	\$4,000
Peoples Medical College , Nawabshah	08	10	\$4,000
Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Khan Mahar Medical College , Sukkur	02	10	\$4,000
Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad.	06	10	\$5,000
Khyber Medical College Peshawar	16	16	\$5,000
Total:	104	184	

* P/A & P/S =per annum per student

Similarly if we accommodate 10 international students in each Medical college (Public Sector only) then the revenue earned per year will be \$5,350,000 or 321,000,000 rupees.

Dentistry

At this time there are only 7 seats in Dentistry under this scheme at an average of 2 seats per college (excluding 10 seats in Liaquat Medical College Jamshoro).

Name of College/ University	Seats available	Proposed seats	Tuition fee* P/A & P/S
De' Montmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore	02	10	\$10,000
Nishter Medical College , Multan	02	10	\$7,000
Liaquat Medical College , Jamshoro	10	10	\$5,000
Khyber College of Dentistry Peshawar	02	10	\$6,000
Ayub Medical College , Abbottabad.	01	10	\$6,000
Total:	17	50	

* P/A & P/S =per annum per student

By accommodating 10 students in each Dental college every year Pakistan can earn US \$1,700,000= RS. 117,000,000.

Pharmacy

In pharmacy reasonable reserved seats under foreign national self finance scheme are available as indicated in the following table

Institution	Number of Seats	Fee Per Annum
University of Punjab , Lahore	12	US\$ 1,000/=
Bahauddin Zakaria University , Multan	10	Rs.50,000/=
University of Sindh , Jamshoro	25	Rs.44,750/= or equal amount US \$
University of Karachi , Karachi	20	Rs.1,50,000/=
Gomal University , D.I. Khan	05	Rs.38,000/=
University of Balochistan , Quetta	05	Rs.50,000/=
University of Peshawar , Peshawar	05	Rs.45,000/=
Total:-	82	

* P/A & P/S =per annum per student

Total tuition fee for pharmacy sums up to 30,018,750.

Role of Gomal University D. I. Khan is commendable in this regard. They opened their doors for foreign national students and offered admission to more than 38 international students for Pharm.D in the same session and earned a lot of revenue in spite of the fact that they have only five seats reserved for foreign nationals. They overcome this problem by establishing a whole separate class for foreign students.

Engineering

Sixty six seats are available under this category in BSc. Engineering. If we accommodate 3 students in each discipline at an average in seven well known engineering institutions then number of seats will be as under

Name of College/ University	Seats available	Proposed seats	Tuition fee* P/A & P/S
NWFP University of Engineering , Peshawar	10	21	US\$ 7,000/= (one time payment) + Regular Fee
Dawood College of Engineering & Technology, Karachi	20	20 (existing)	Rs.3,00,000/= (one time payment) + Regular Fee
NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi	06	42	US\$9,000/= (one time payment) + Regular Fee
Mehran University of Engineering & Technology	05	48	US\$9,000/= (one time payment) + Regular Fee
Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering & Technology, Nawabshah	05	21	Rs.3,50,000/= (one time payment) + Regular Fee
University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore	10	42	US\$ 9,000 (one time plus Regular Fee
University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila	10	15	US\$ 10,000 (one time + Regular Fee
Total: -	66	209	

* P/A & P/S =per annum per student

So per year earning will be 76,530,000 from only engineering disciplines at bachelor level.

Hence total earning from Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Engineering (at Undergraduate level only) will sum up to Rs: 544,548,750.

And if we include hostel charges and living expenses as well then the amount goes up to 0.6 billion rupees from these four disciplines(at undergraduate level) only. Table given below indicates the consolidated impact in revenue generation if seats are enhanced about 50 %.

Discipline	Existing seats	Proposed Seats	Average Current Income PKR	Proposed Income in Pak Rs.
MBBS	76	150	136,800,000	321,000,000
BDS	13	50	23,400,000	117,000,000
Pharm.D	82	82	30,018,705	30,018,705
B.Sc Engineering	66	209	31,680,000	76,530,000
Total	237	491	221,898,705	544,548,705

Government of Pakistan must facilitate the students and should make the relaxed visa process.

Agricultural institutions:

The economy of Pakistan is agriculture based. Pakistani institutions can offer better agriculture education to the students of under developing countries as conditions in those countries are very much similar to Pakistan . Agricultural institutions in Pakistan are well equipped and are producing high quality professionals in this field. They are not doing anything less than medical colleges or engineering universities. Each one of the four agriculture universities in the country is second to none and has its own importance. Along with numerous post graduate courses these universities are also offering many courses at bachelor level like Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Medicine etc.

These universities have capacity to accommodate at least 10-15 foreign students in each course at bachelor level. If we accommodate 10-15 students in each course at bachelor level then we can accommodate at least 220 foreign students in these four agriculture universities. Pakistan can earn about \$1,320,000 or Rs. 79,200,000 per year on tuition fee from these four universities and if we include living expenses, then amount goes sum up to 90,000,000 rupees.

Management, Computer and Natural Science

Similarly seats can also be reserved for the foreign students in Management sciences, computer sciences and natural sciences. Universities and educational institutions of Pakistan have the capacity to accommodate at least 5 foreign students in each discipline.

Knowledge Sharing with Friendly Countries

Muslim countries, especially Middle East and African countries are much behind in the fields of Computer Sciences, Information Technology, Management science and emerging sciences. Pakistan has made splendor development in these fields especially in Telecommunication and Information Technology over last few years. Institutions can start a special evening/afternoon program for international students in these

fields. Tuition fee can be at an average of US \$1,000-2,000 per annum. This new campaign will help to earn goodwill, project the better image of Pakistan and the slogan of 'Sharing Knowledge and Expertise with friendly Muslim/Developing Countries' and low fee structure can motivate the students from these countries to move to Pakistan . This will not only help in providing the foreign student with their required environment but will also be helpful for the Universities to offer admission to as many students as they want.

Postgraduate Medical Institutions and Fee Structure:

Post Graduate institutions for medical studies do not do justice with international students. Most of the institutions are charging US \$ 5,000 per annum from foreign students and some institutions are charging as much as US \$ 10,000 per annum despite the fact that these foreign students are serving our nation by working in these hospitals for more than 8 hours a day. While to Pakistani students admitted for the same course, Government of Pakistan pays Minimum Rs. 8,000 per month.

Pakistan Technical Assistance Program (PTAP)

Students from friendly countries and Pakistanis having foreign nationality who have completed their 12 year education outside Pakistan physically, can apply on these seats for Medical, Engineering, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

Under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) 382 seats (MBBS= 150, BDS = 28, Pharm.D = 59 and B.Sc. Engineering =145) are reserved for foreign nationals in the Professional Institutions of Pakistan. Out of 382 seats following 32 seats are exclusively reserved for foreign nationals of Pakistani Origin which are further divided as under

MBBS	=	15
BDS	=	02
Pharm.D	=	02
B. Sc. Engineering	=	13

Students admitted under PTAP pay fee at highly subsidized rates at par with local Pakistani students ranging from US\$ 200 to US\$ 500 per annum.

Objectives of this scheme include earn goodwill, project the better image of Pakistan, share knowledge and expertise with friendly developing countries and renew the contacts of expatriate Pakistanis with Pakistan through education of their children in Pakistan

ADMISSION POLICY

Students are today experiencing corporeal transnational mobility as never before, and the signs are that it will increase in the future. In a world of globally interconnected economies and web-societies, moving beyond borders is becoming a common feature of life for students, but- Is Pakistan being equipped to meet the challenge of 'Attracting the International students'?. Is Pakistan striving to be responsible for providing a quality education especially when expectations of international mobility are growing?

The main problems faced by foreign students in Pakistan include the revision policies after every two or three years, equivalence process and non existence of professional consultancy organizations for study in Pakistan .

Previous Policy

The previous procedure was a lengthy one and foreign students faced many problems. This policy determines that if a student wants to get admitted in any of Pakistani institution under self finance scheme, he has to submit his application to Pakistan embassy, Pakistan embassy refers its application to education ministry and ministry of interiors, after the issuance of NOC from these two authorities the application is redirected to the institution and if institution offers provisional admission to the student then student is approved to be granted with visa. Usually this whole process takes at least three to four months or in some cases may also extend to more than one year. This

results in wasting the precious time of student and his resources.

Revised Policy

The Higher Education Commission has a mandate to promote higher education within the country and to encourage and facilitate Pakistani students for their higher education within the country as well as outside the country. Assigning the responsibility of facilitating the foreign students intended to take admission in Pakistani Educational Institutions is an obvious veneration of its working in the field of education.

It is commendable that Higher Education Commission has revised the procedure of admission, issuing/renewal of visa of foreign students for their admission in educational institutions of Pakistan.

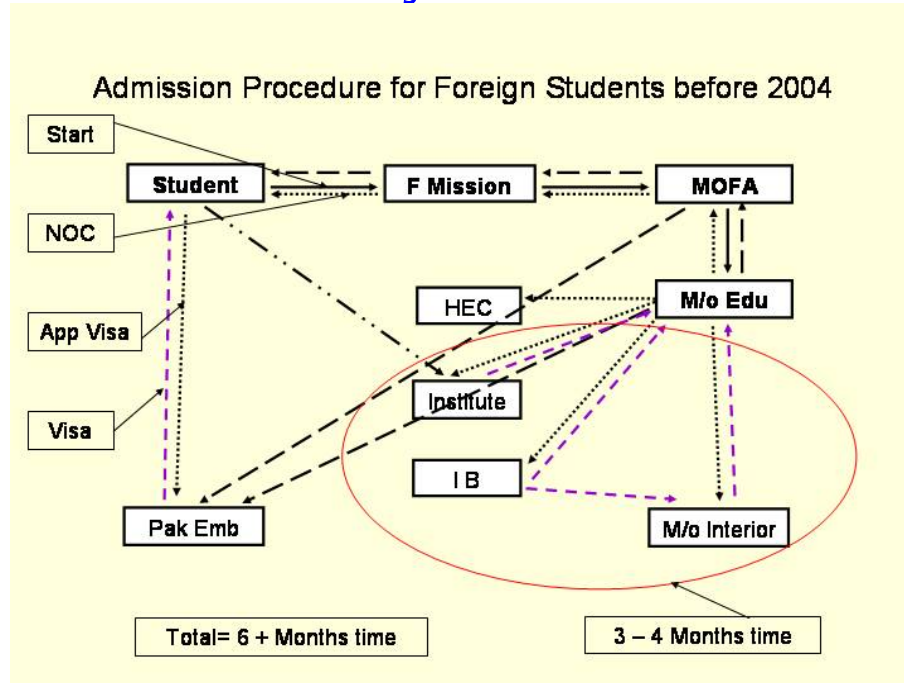
According to this new policy, a foreign student seeking admission in Pakistani Universities/Degree awarding Institutions has to apply for admission direct to the concerned University/Institution and get the letter of confirmation of his/her admission. After getting admission confirmation letter the student will approach the Pakistani mission abroad for the visa that will be issued within 4 weeks.

According to the new policy the student now will directly apply to the institution and he/she will neither have to go to the Embassy nor to the Ministry of Education. Students can be more benefited if IBCC can stamp out their requirement of NOC as NOC does not play any role in equivalence process and becomes a cause of stress for the student. Every student must have a right of getting equivalence certificate after paying the fee and fulfilling the basic criterion. IBCC might not be concerned with the issue whether the student is going to get admitted in Pakistani educational institution or not. Higher Education Commission can play a vital role in this regard to eradicate these problems.

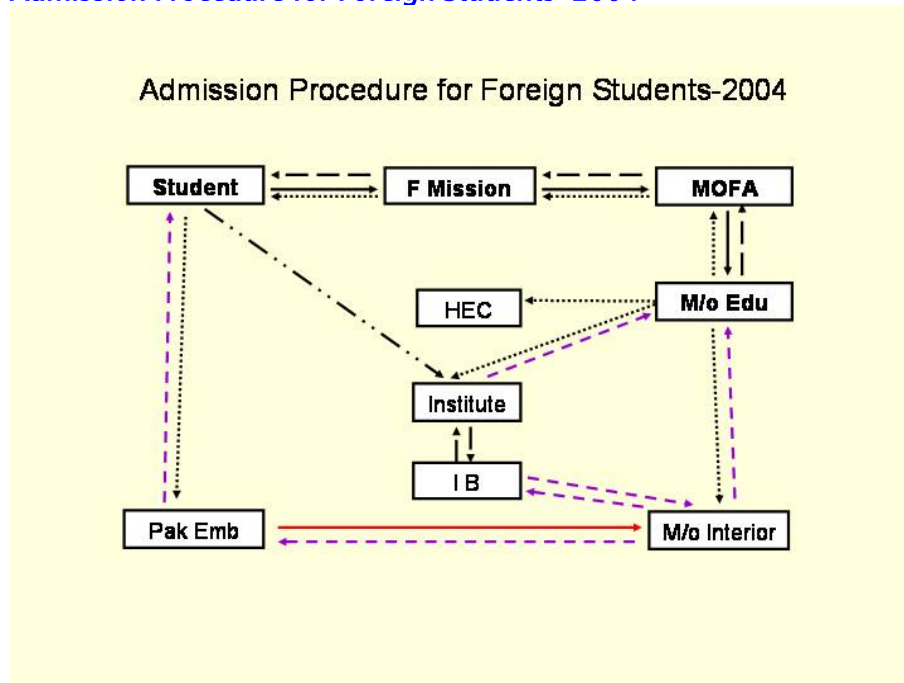
The new policy will let the student be free from following up his/her admission process with the concerned Embassy and Ministry of Education and he/she will only interact with the institution. The revised procedure will not only dwindle down the difficulties faced by the foreign students but also will be helpful in increasing the number of foreign students in the country.

However, the admission procedure of foreign students in MBBS, BDS, D-Pharmacy, and BSc Engineering under Pakistan Technical Assistant Program (PTAP) and Self Finance Scheme (SFS) will be processed directly by Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) respectively as per previous practice.

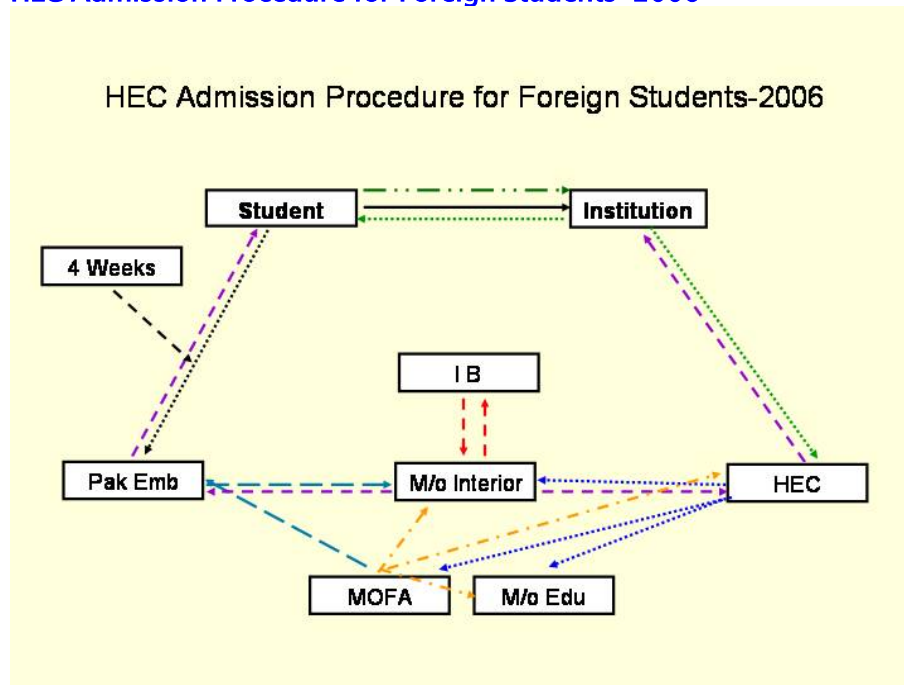
Admission Procedure for Foreign Students before 2004



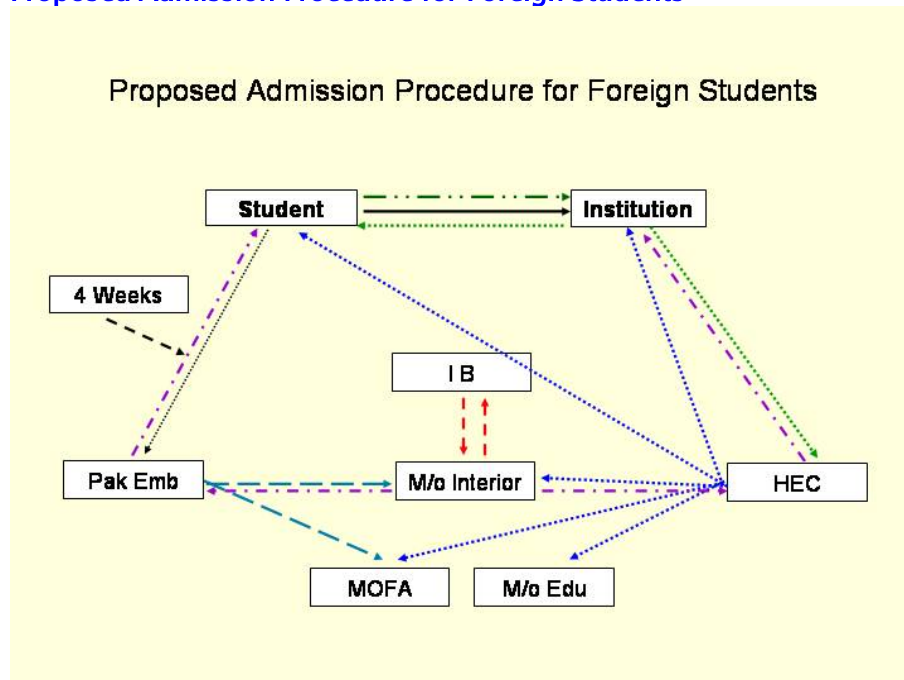
Admission Procedure for Foreign Students-2004



HEC Admission Procedure for Foreign Students-2006



Proposed Admission Procedure for Foreign Students



EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

According to the new policy the student now will directly apply to the institution and he/she will neither have to go to the Embassy nor to the Ministry of Education. Students can be more benefited if Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) can stamp out their requirement of NOC (before applying for equivalence certificate a student has to get NOC from Ministry of Education) as NOC does not play any role in equivalence process and becomes a cause of stress for the student. Every student must have a right of getting equivalence certificate after paying the fee and fulfilling the basic criterion. IBCC might not be concerned with the issue whether the student is going to get admitted in Pakistani educational institution or not. Higher Education Commission can play a vital role in this regard to eradicate or minimize these problems.

Subject deficiency

Subject deficiency is another dilemma. Every country has its own educational system and group combinations. In most of the countries physics is not compulsory for the pre-medical students and pre-engineering students are not enforced to study chemistry. Whereas in Pakistan, both subjects are compulsory for pre-medical and pre-engineering students. When these students come to Pakistan they are not granted equivalence certificate until and unless they go back to their country and study these subjects, and in this way doors are closed for them for study in Pakistan. Whereas in USA or UK if the institutions find any deficiency, they permit the student to join the institution with the condition that, in addition to core subjects, he/she will have to study some extra subjects as special courses in order to meet the requirement. This policy can also be exercised in Pakistan to promote study in Pakistan.

Non existence of Professional Consultancy Organizations

The major dilemma faced by the foreign students is the lack of professional consultancy organizations for study in Pakistan. The institutions may appoint their official consultants in different

countries of the world as different organizations are working in Pakistan for study in UK or USA. These consultants guide the students properly and minimize the chances of students drop out. In addition to this these organizations will also advertise in their countries for their own business and will promote study in Pakistan directly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Increase the number of seats for foreign students
- ❖ Eradicate the physics requirement for pre-medical students and chemistry for pre-engineering students for equivalence
- ❖ Institutions may appoint their professional consultants in Middle East and African countries
- ❖ Postgraduate medical Institutions may decrease their fee structure for foreign students
- ❖ HEC may also send a copy of NOC to the foreign student at the time it sends NOC to the institution
- ❖ IBCC must eliminate the requirement of NOC for equivalence
- ❖ Confirm the admission of foreign students well in time
- ❖ Since most of students come from Middle East region where English is second language. Therefore arrangements should be made conduct Preliminary English language courses for foreign students.