

Minimum Criteria for Admission in MS/MPhil/Equivalent and PhD Programs

This is for the information of all concerned that the degrees awarded by the Universities/Degree Awarding Institutions must meet the following minimum criteria for recognition by the HEC.

MS/MPhil/Equivalent Programs:

1. Sixteen years of schooling or 4 year education (124 credit hours) after HSSC/F.A. /F.Sc/Grade 12 or Equivalent will be required for admission in the MPhil/MS/Equivalent program.
2. Higher Education Commission recommends to the Universities for the admission test that:
 - a. Either enter into private arrangement under the University Law with the NTS for conducting GAT General as an eligibility condition for admission to MS/MPhil or equivalent programs

OR

 - b. Engage another renowned testing service provider for the purpose

OR

 - c. Conduct the test of the equivalent level at the University
3. The students have to clear the test with a minimum 50% cumulative score for admission in MPhil/MS or equivalent Program in all above mentioned options.
4. For award of MPhil/MS/Equivalent degree, candidates will either need to complete 30 credit hours of course work or complete 24 credit hours of course work along with a minimum of 6 credit hours for research work/thesis.
5. There should be at least 2 relevant full time PhD Faculty members in a department to launch the MPhil/MS/Equivalent programs.

PhD Program:

1. Admission Requirement

For admission into the PhD program, minimum CGPA 3.0 (out of 4.0 in the Semester System) or First Division (in the Annual System) in MPhil/MS/Equivalent degree is required.

2. Subject Test

Higher Education Commission recommends to the Universities for the admission test that:

- a. Either enter into private arrangement under the University Law with the NTS for conducting GAT Subject as an eligibility condition for admission to PhD programs
- OR
- b. Engage another renowned testing service provider for the purpose
- OR
- c. Conduct the test of the equivalent level at the University

- i. In case of subject test through GAT (subject) or any other testing body; the minimum of 60% marks are required to pass the test (applicable for option 2a & 2b).
- ii. In case of university test: University Committee consisting of at least 3 PhD faculty members in the subject area will prepare the Test at par with GRE Subject Test and qualifying score for this will be 70% score (applicable on option 2c).

3. Course Work

Course work of 18 credit hours preferably in the first year is required to be completed and followed by a comprehensive examination for granting candidacy as PhD researcher.

4. Foreign Expert Evaluation

The PhD Dissertation must be evaluated by at least two PhD experts from technologically /academically advanced foreign countries in addition to local Committee members.

5. Open Defense

An open defense of Dissertation is essential part of PhD Program after positive evaluation of Dissertation.

6. Research Paper

Publication of at least one research paper based on the PhD research in an HEC approved W or X category journal is the requirement for the award of PhD degree (Y in case of Social Sciences only)

7. Plagiarism Test

The Plagiarism Test must be conducted on the Dissertation before its submission to the two foreign experts, as described above.

8. Copy of PhD Dissertation to HEC

A copy of PhD Dissertation (both hard and soft) must be submitted to HEC for placing/including in PhD Country Directory and for attestation of the PhD degree by the HEC in future.

9. Conduct of PhD Program

There should be at least 3 relevant full time PhD Faculty members in a department to launch a PhD program.

10. Maximum Supervision of Scholars

A supervisor can supervise a total of 12 MS/MPhil /PhD students at a time with no more than 5 of these being PhD students.