

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION PAKISTAN

In May 2004, Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) included the Netherlands as one of the destination countries for the Overseas Scholarship Scheme for PhD in Selected Fields.

Aim

The aim of the scholarship is to rapidly improve Pakistan's national research capacity. Scholarship recipients will follow PhD programmes or master's programmes leading to a PhD in a partner country in the following disciplines: engineering and technology, life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, business studies, arts and humanities. The partner countries are the Netherlands, Australia (Charles Darwin University), China, Thailand (AIT), New Zealand (Massey University/University of Auckland), France, Austria, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Intermediary services

Until 2008 Nuffic provided support to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) by helping with selection, placement, preparation and guidance of candidates for Master's leading to PhD and PhD programmes in the Netherlands. Nuffic has decided that from 2008 (candidates from Phase II, batch II) it will no longer act as a placing agent for HEC. This means that Nuffic will no longer play an intermediary role for future HEC candidates.

This decision will not affect Pakistani scholarship recipients that have already been placed at a Dutch education institution, most of whom have already started their studies in the Netherlands. Nuffic will continue to fulfill its responsibilities to them and to the institutions involved in the usual way (see information under Nuffic Services).

The scholarship

The scholarship is provided by HEC for a maximum of 48 months for PhD candidates and for a maximum of 60 months for candidates doing a combined master's and PhD programme. It includes:

- a monthly stipend of EUR 975, which includes a sum for the insurance premium;
- travel costs (based on one return fare);
- reimbursement of visa and residence permit fees up to a maximum of EUR 430;
- a modest contribution towards any tuition fees that may be payable.

If PhD students want to carry out fieldwork in Pakistan, they must submit a detailed research proposal and budget to HEC along with written approval of the PhD supervisor. HEC then scrutinizes the proposal and makes a budget recommendation.

In return, recipients undertake to come back to Pakistan with a PhD degree at the end of the study period, and to work in Pakistan for at least 60 months. If they don't, they have to pay the scholarship back.

Nuffic's role

Nuffic's role includes providing assistance with placing students, providing help once students are in the Netherlands, arranging insurance, providing student counselling, monitoring performance, making payments to the scholarship recipients and the host institutions, and making substantive and financial reports to HEC. If there are problems while scholarship recipients are studying, Nuffic can propose solutions and advise HEC accordingly.

Role of the host institution in the Netherlands

The role of the host institution includes applying for the visa, arranging housing, giving proper supervision to the scholar, informing Nuffic about the progress made by the scholar, informing Nuffic of any substantial changes in the manner in which the PhD programme is carried out, and awarding the doctorate degree upon successful completion of the PhD programme.

For further information, contact Nuffic's Scholarship Programmes Department, phone +31 70 4260 344, HEC@nuffic.nl

See also HEC's website:

www.hec.gov.pk/new/index.htm

www.hec.gov.pk/new/HRD/PhD_Programs_Foreign_Scholarships_Scheme.htm

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Nuffic is the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education. Our motto is Linking Knowledge Worldwide. This means linking people, because it's knowledge that makes us unique as people. Nuffic works in line with Dutch government policy to serve students and higher education institutions in three key areas:

• Capacity Building & Scholarships

Administering international mobility programmes (scholarships) and institutional cooperation programmes.

• Communication

Providing information about higher education systems in the Netherlands and in other countries; providing credential evaluation services; providing information in the Netherlands about studying abroad, and in other countries about studying in Holland; promoting Dutch higher education in other countries; encouraging international mobility.

• Knowledge & Innovation

Conducting studies into international cooperation in higher education; providing information to expert groups and consultation forums; transferring our knowledge of international cooperation in higher education through courses and seminars.

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