



Pakistan Engineering Council

(Constituted under Pakistan Engineering Council Act, 1976 enacted by the parliament)

Ataturk Avenue (East),
G-5/2, Islamabad

Engineering Accreditation Department

PEC/EAD/Policy (Admission)-COVID/004/2020

July 08, 2020

To:

All Vice Chancellors/ Rectors/ Head of
Institutions in Pakistan

Subject: **PEC Admission Policy Regarding Entry Test for Session (Fall-2020) during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

During the current outbreak of pandemic Covid19, PEC being an apex regulatory body for the engineering education and profession, has been continuously engaged with all its stakeholders and relevant international forums to discuss and learn best possible practices and way-out to devise such policies and mechanisms convenient to HEIs during this crisis of pandemic to ensure imparting knowledge and skills to students without compromising quality standards in engineering education and their virtual assessment mechanism inline with best international practices. In this regard, this council has issued two policy documents earlier namely; the policy guidelines for “online teaching-learning and assessment Implementation”, and “online assessment and examination” dated April, 15 and June 17, 2020, respectively.

In continuation to the above policy documents shared with HEIs, the subject policy for admission of Fall-2020 in engineering programs of HEIs was discussed in detail inline with PEC Regulations with all relevant stakeholders/ forums of PEC, i.e., PEC Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB) and Vice Chancellors Committee (VCC) in their respective meetings held on 23rd and 29th June, 2020, respectively.

After comprehensive deliberations, the following policy guidelines were concluded/ approved in 42nd Vice Chancellor Committee meeting held on June 29, 2020. The same is being forwarded for information and adherence by all HEIs in intimation to PEC, please.

1. *As per the general consensus, it is observed that entry test be conducted for Fall-2020 admission, being a mandatory regulation by PEC for HEIs and to ensure the quality of intake to pursue engineering programs. However, the HEIs may opt to conduct entry test as per their convenience (schedule, duration, single or multiple tests) in any mode (Online, computer-based, virtual mode or physical appearance in examination) in-line with PEC policy and Regulations. As per general guidelines in this regard, offering multiple slots in smaller groups to ensure COVID19 imposed SOPs/ preventive measures may be practiced/ followed, rather taking one-day exam of large group of students at one place. HEI may also, depending upon the total number of applicants, arrange more centers to have social distancing norms into manageable size of groups.*

However, health safety and care be ensured for each student, invigilators and university staff involved in this exercise as per given SOPs.

2. *However, in-case of an unavoidable circumstances/ emergency or serious lockdown situation imposed by the local/central Government or any other emergent law & order situation, the policy to conduct entrance test may be substituted with an alternative option/ proposal as to exercise SSC and HSSC/A-level marks-based assessment mechanism to compute admission merit for students including the weightage of electives-Basic Science Subjects i.e. Physics, Math /Biology and Chemistry/Computer science (as per the eligibility criteria and combinations identified in Article 2(a) of PEC Regulations).*

This option shall also be available to those HEIs who are unable to develop, manage or conduct entry test (for all applicants) due to any localized situation, lockdown policy or otherwise lacking capacity to arrange/manage virtual/ semi-virtual or physical test (not valid under the normalized situation). In such a case, HEI may approach PEC, after their internal statutory approvals from relevant forums of HEI, to seek waiver on this mandatory regulation of conducting entry test and submit an alternative proposal in line with the guidelines mentioned above in this para to compute merit-based admission system.

However, it is cautioned and clarified that this OPTION to have substitute admission mechanism for entry test shall not remain valid if the lockdown situation is normalized by the Governments before the admission process and gradual academic progression is allowed to resume in HEIs while maintaining COVID19 SOPs implemented. The HEIs are therefore should stay updated on day-to-day situation and Government policies in this regard and start preparing for the normal circumstances as well.

Looking forwards and working together to ensure imparting quality education and producing competent engineering professionals for the socio-economic development of the country.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

With regards,



Engr. Dr. Nasir M. Khan
Secretary EAB/Head EAD

Copy to:

- i. Convener & Members of PEC Vice Chancellors Committee/ Members of EAB
- ii. Executive Director, HEC Islamabad / MD QAA, HEC Islamabad
- iii. PS to Chairman/ Registrar PEC, and All Regional/ Branch Offices, PEC