

8th September 2012

Dr. Javaid Laghari
Chairman
The Higher Education Commission (HEC)
Government of Pakistan

Re: HEC scholarships for students at SOAS, University of London

Dear Dr. Laghari,

Following extensive discussion among academic social scientists working on Pakistan at leading institutions, a group of us have decided to write this joint letter to you to support the inclusion of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in the first list of universities for HEC scholarships. SOAS has for many years specialised in areas of studies directly relevant to academic research on Pakistan, has contributed immensely to research on the country, and has consistently produced scholars who have gone on to serve at senior levels in major academic institutions in Pakistan. It has the largest concentrations of specialists working on Pakistan of any UK higher education institution and provides a sympathetic and supportive environment for junior and senior scholars alike.

The ranking (which in important respects is focused on the natural rather than the social sciences) currently used by the HEC to award scholarships overlooks the academic ties that SOAS has developed with Pakistan over half a century and more; it is the home of eminent academics such as Ralph Russell, David Matthews, Christopher Shackle, the late Z. H. Zaidi (editor in chief of the Jinnah papers), and of other distinguished scholars who have worked on Pakistan. Even among the colleges of the University of London which are currently on the list for HEC scholarships, SOAS stands out in those areas of academic research that are of direct relevance to Pakistan.

SOAS's long tradition of academic ties with Pakistan was recently enhanced by the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Pakistan (CSP). The CSP has just launched its Masters programme in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan, a unique programme in the UK.

We hope the HEC will consult with its own academics working in the humanities and social sciences, in addition to the signatories of this letter, and decide to include SOAS in the first list of institutions for the HEC scholarships. Such a decision will be of enormous benefit to academic research and to the

development of academic institutions in Pakistan. We would be happy to supply any further information that might be of help to the HEC.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Asad Ahmed, University of Harvard
Prof. Asim Ijaz Khawaja, University of Harvard
Prof. Barbara Harris-White, University of Oxford
Dr. Matthew McCartney, University of Oxford
Dr. Adeel Malik, University of Oxford
Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, University of Oxford
Dr. Tahir Kamran, University of Cambridge
Dr. Adnan Kadir, London School of Economics (LSE)
Dr. Athar Hussain, London School of Economics (LSE)
Prof. Ian Talbot, University of Southampton
Dr. Stephen Lyon, University of Durham
Prof. Yunus Samad, University of Bradford
Dr. Sarah Ansari, Royal Holloway, University of London
Prof. Tariq Rahman, The HEC Distinguished Scholar

SOAS Academics:

Dr. Francesca Orsini, Dr. Mathew Nelson, Dr. David Taylor, Prof. Jonthan Goodhand, Dr. Amina Yaqin, Dr. James Caron, Dr. Subir Sinha, Nadir Cheema*

LUMS Academics:

Prof. Ali Qasmi, Prof. Sabieh Anwar, Prof. Imran Ali, Prof. Taimur Rahman, Dr. Hasan Javid

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Education Attaché

HIGH COMMISSION FOR PAKISTAN
35-36 LOWNDES SQUARE
LONDON SW1X 9JN
Ph: 020-7664-9285

No.Education 4/7/12.

9th January, 2013.

Subject: **HEC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES AT SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

Dear

Kindly refer Higher Education Commission, Islamabad's letter No.1-1/PD(OSS-II)/HRD/HEC/01/12 dated 8th October, 2012 on the subject noted above.

2. Your request regarding HEC Scholarships for studies at SOAS, University of London was forwarded to Higher Education Commission, Islamabad for consideration. In this response HEC has informed that they follow the discipline wise ranking of 'The Times Higher Education World University Ranking' for award of scholarships under its project titled 'Overseas Scholarships for MS/MPhil leading to PhD in selected fields (Phase-II 10%).

3. The University of London/SOAS does not fall in either overall or discipline wise 50 top ranking universities of the world. Therefore it is regretted to state that the said scholarship cannot be awarded to candidates to pursue PhD studies at SOAS till the time the University/School appears in the top 50 ranks.

4. It is also mentioned here that HEC would like to have collaboration with University of London/SOAS to send 20 or more scholars in all areas of knowledge which are being offered at SOAS subject to special fee discount. HEC can pay stipend GBP-750/- per month and tuition fee of up to Euros 6000/- per annum to the scholars for a period of up to maximum 4 years for MS+PhD or direct PhD program.

With Regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Nadia
(Nadia Qadir Patel)
Education Attache

Mr.Nadir Cheema,
SOAS University of London,
Thornhaugh Street,
Russell Square,
London WC1H 0XG,
U.K

Copy to Professor Dr.Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Advisor (HRD) Higher Education Commission, H-9, Islamabad with reference to their letter No.1-1/PD(OSS-II)/HRD/HEC/01/12 dated 8th October, 2012