

## **HEC Research Publication & External Evaluators Policy**

### **3.11 Research Publication**

**For award of PhD degree, a PhD researcher shall be required to publish research articles meeting the following criteria:**

- i. At least:
  - a. One research article in W category journal or two research articles in X category journals, for Science disciplines
  - b. One research article in X category journal or two research articles in Y category journals, for Social Science disciplines
- ii. The PhD researcher shall be the first author of these publications.
- iii. The research article shall be relevant to the PhD research work of the PhD researcher.
- iv. The article shall be published after approval of the research synopsis.
- v. The article shall be published in a relevant research journal.

### **3.9 External Evaluation of PhD Dissertation**

#### **i. The PhD dissertation must be evaluated by:**

*a. At least two external experts who shall be:*

i. PhD faculty member from the world top 500 universities ranked by the Times Higher Education or QS World Ranking in the year corresponding to dissertation evaluation year OR

ii. Pakistan-based Distinguished National Professors, Meritorious Professors from any national university; or professors from top universities ranked by HEC; or professors from any Pakistani University having a minimum H-Index 30 for Sciences, 15 for Social Sciences or 8 for Art & Humanities as determined by Web of Science. OR

*b. At least one external expert qualifying any one of the conditions mentioned at 'a' above if the PhD candidate publishes dissertation research in a peer-reviewed journal that is classified by the HEC in category W for Sciences and X or above for Social Sciences.*

#### **ii. The following general guidelines shall, at least, be observed while selecting external evaluator:**

a. Relevance of Expertise: in the same or related fields as in the dissertation.

b. No Conflict of Interest: in personal, financial, or professional stakes in a particular decision or outcome.

c. Objectivity: capable of making unbiased evaluations.

d. Diversity: in terms of geography, culture, professional backgrounds etc.

e. Reputation: must be good in the field, with a track record of fair and thorough evaluations.

f. Availability: should have the time and availability to review the dissertation.

g. Professionalism: capable of conducting themselves in a professional and respectful manner throughout the evaluation and defense process (if applicable).

h. Communication: capable of providing clear and constructive feedback on the dissertation.

i. Confidentiality: capable of maintaining confidentiality and protecting the intellectual property of the dissertation.

j. Compatibility: well-versed with the research methodology, approach, and theories used in the dissertation.