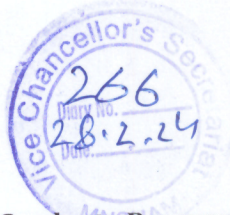




THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Quality Assurance Agency

Sector H-8, Islamabad. Phone: 051-90802700
www.hec.gov.pk



SUBJECT: Graduate Program Review (GPR) Report of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan held on December 27-28, 2023.

The Graduate Program Review (GPR) Panel of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission (HEC) reviewed the MPhil/MS and PhD programs (level 7 & 8 of NQF) of your institute from December 27-28, 2023. This on-site review not only validates compliance with the Higher Education Commission's minimum criteria and guidelines for M.S./M.Phil. and Ph.D. level programs but also offers invaluable feedback to the university's management for the continuous enhancement of program quality.

The Postgraduate Program Review report developed by the committee is attached for immediate actions needed to address identified deficiencies in various programs. The institute is advised not to advertise admissions in the 'Halted' or 'FIS' programs without QAA permission. Regarding the Halted program, the institute is advised to immediately appoint relevant qualified faculty, within 6 months to avoid NOC cancellation and potential students' loss. In case of non-compliance, the NOC for the under-consideration program could be banned for at least two years as per Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023.

Furthermore, the HEC anticipates the improvement of the identified deficiencies as outlined in the report along with submission of the compliance of this report before the commencement of the next semester. By ensuring compliance with HEC policy guidelines, engaging qualified faculty with relevant expertise, ensuring adequate research infrastructure, upholding ethical standards, and promoting transparent communication with stakeholders, we can safeguard the academic integrity of institutions and cultivate a high-quality research environment for both students and researchers.

This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

(Nasir Shah)

Director General (QAA)

28/02/24
*cc * all Deans*
DGS
Div. QEC
Div. ORIC
Registration To
call + meeting
with all offices
on the PGP
suggestions.

The Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan

No. 11-116/HEC/QAA/GPR/2023/2802 dated February 22, 2024

Copy for information:

- i. E.S. to Executive Director, HEC Islamabad.
- ii. The Advisor (QA & GE), HEC Islamabad.
- iii. The Director QEC, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan
- iv. Office Record.





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MNS University of Agriculture, Multan
Graduate Program Review Report
27-28 December 2023

MNS University of Agriculture, Multan started its journey in 2013. After the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Act 2013, the University became a public sector institution. The university mandate is to provide education and scholarships in the field of agriculture and other branches of knowledge as it may deem fit according to the act of the university. The following team of subject experts/reviewers nominated by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Higher Education Commission, visited the University on 27-28 December 2023 to review its Ph.D. & M.Phil./MS/Equivalent programs.

Prof. Dr. Saeed Badshah, Professor, IIUI, Islamabad	(Convener)
Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf, HOD, National Skills University, Islamabad	(Member)
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akmal, Chairman, University of Agriculture, Peshawar	(Member)
Ms. Sadia Bukhari, Deputy Director, HEC Islamabad	(HEC Representative)
Mr. Imtiaz Ali, Assistant Director, HEC, Islamabad	(HEC Coordinator)



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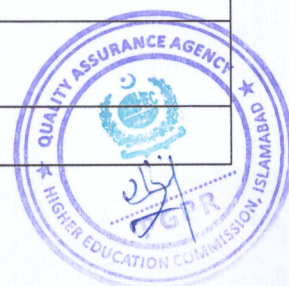
Executive Summary:

Review team constituted by Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), visited the MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, for M. Phil. / MS/ PhD, and equivalent programs. The focal office arranged the necessary documents in a well-organized way. The review team interacted with faculty members, chairpersons, students, administrative heads, and visited the facilities including classrooms, laboratories, library, cafeteria. Faculty is reasonably satisfied and working to have more collaborations for improving the quality of education. The general impression is that MNS University of Agriculture, Multan is a rising institution and have potential to make into national and international rankings.

Programs Summary:

The detail of each program along with its status is mentioned below:

Sr.	Programs	Students	M.Phil. Faculty	Ph.D. Faculty	Status	Comments
01	M.Sc. (Hons) Plant Breeding & Genetics	28	02	06	OK	
02	PhD Plant Breeding & Genetics	09			OK	
03	M.Sc. (Hons) Biotechnology	29	02	05	OK	
04	PhD Biotechnology	06			OK	
05	M.Sc. (Hons) Seed Science & Technology	05	01	05	OK	
06	M.Sc. (Hons) Agricultural Entomology	41	01	10	OK	
07	PhD Entomology	17			OK	
08	M.Sc. Plant Pathology	28	00	08	OK	
09	PhD Plant Pathology	13			OK	





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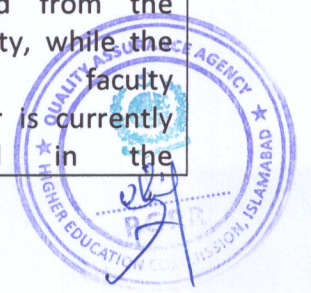
10	M.Sc. (Hons) Agronomy	42	01	06	OK	
11	PhD Agronomy	12			OK	
12	M.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture	51	03	06	OK	
13	PhD Horticulture	12			OK	
14	M.Sc. (Hons) Soil Science	53	00	08	OK	
15	PhD Soil Science	15			OK	
16	M.Sc. (Hons) Climate Change	19	01	04	OK	
17	MS Computer Science	60	07	07	OK	
18	PhD Computer Science	08			OK	
19	M.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture Economics	12	02	06	OK	
20	M.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture Economics	06			OK	
21	MS Management Agribusiness Specialization	14	04	02	OK	
22	M.Sc. (Hons) Agricultural Extension	03	00	02	OK	NOC needs to be revised with relevant faculty of the subject
23	M.Sc. (Hons) Food Science & Technology	51	06	05	OK	
24	PhD Food Science & Technology	17			OK	
25	M.Sc. (Hons) Human Nutrition and Dietetics	32	01	03	OK	
26	PhD Human Nutrition and Dietetics	04			OK	





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27	M.Sc. (Hons) Agro-Industrial Engineering Technology	08	01	04	OK	
28	M.Sc. (Hons) Agricultural Engineering	11	02	03	OK	
29	M.Sc. (Hons) Poultry Sciences	28	01	04	OK	
30	M.Sc. (Hons) Public Health	105	02	07	FIS	The student-to-teacher ratio has surpassed the permitted limit, leading to the supervision of numerous students from other departments within the University as a result.
31	M.Sc. (Hons) Zoology	66			Halt	The program currently has only one dedicated PhD faculty member available, as the second faculty member is currently involved in the Public Health Program. There are a total of 66 Master of Science (MSc) students and 8 PhD students enrolled in the program.
32	PhD Zoology	08	02	01	Halt	
33	M.Sc. (Hons) Fisheries and Aquaculture	19	02	00	Halt	One of the PhD faculty members has departed from the University, while the second faculty member is currently engaged in the



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						Zoology Program. As a consequence, there is an absence of a dedicated PhD faculty member specifically aligned with the needs of the program.
34	M.Sc. (Hons) Weed Science					NOC obtained, but no admissions
35	M.Sc. (Hons) Postharvest Management Technology					NOC obtained, but no admissions
36	M.Sc. (Hons) Energy Systems Engineering					NOC obtained, but no admissions
37	PhD Seed Science and Technology					NOC obtained, but no admissions
38	M.Sc. Electrical Engineering					NOC obtained, but no admissions
39	MS Chemical Engineering					NOC obtained, but no admissions
40	PhD Chemical Engineering					NOC obtained, but no admissions

The Institute is advised to comply with the decision of the Review Panel while considering the definition of Program Status mentioned below:

Halted: Institute should halt all activities of the program, including the conduction of classes, assessment & examinations, thesis defence, award of degrees, etc. until the university meets the minimum criteria of HEC and obtain permission from QAA.

Further Intake Stopped (FIS): Institute should not admit new students/scholars in the program until permission of the QAA. The program for enrolled students would run provided that other identified deficiencies are rectified.

OK: The program is meeting the minimum requirements as per HEC criteria.





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Observations:

1.0 Faculty

1.1 Findings

1. There is a dearth of qualified faculty in some of the departments offering programs at M.Phil./MS/PhD levels. Moreover, in some departments, the minimum requirement to launch M.Phil./MS/PhD programs are not being met.
2. In certain instances, it has been observed that students in their research phase are being supervised by cross-faculty supervisors without proper evaluation of the relevancy. This occurs due to exceeding the limit set by the NQAC and the Higher Education Commission for supervising research students.
3. The faculty's connection and communication with the top leadership of the university are robust and inclusive.
4. The faculty actively engages in research and development activities and has fostered strong connections with the industry, facilitating the collaboration.
5. The faculty members were generally content with the conducive and supportive environment provided for research activities, as well as the opportunities available for faculty capacity building.

1.2 Recommendations

1. At least two full time Ph.D. qualified faculty members are required as per the minimum requirement prescribed by the Higher Education Commission to launch an M.Phil./MS level program, and at least three Ph.D. qualified faculty members in case of a Ph.D. program. The university should hire qualified Ph.D. faculty. Till the hiring of the Ph.D. qualified faculty, all those programs having less than required number of Ph.D. qualified faculty should be halted with immediate effect.
2. The university should devise comprehensive rules and policies for cross-faculty supervision, aligning with the prescribed limits established by the NQAC and the Higher Education Commission concerning the supervision of research students.
3. Limit to supervision as prescribed by the NQAC and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan should be followed in true letter and spirit.





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2.0 Students

2.1 Findings

1. Students are not very well aware of the research opportunities and the utility of the HEC digital library and VPN facility.
2. Books and research journals available in the library are inadequate for research purposes.
3. The students demonstrate a commendable level of satisfaction with the diverse facilities offered by the university. Additionally, faculty members allocate sufficient time for consultation and supervision, ensuring adequate support to the students.
4. There were limited sports activities available for postgraduate students.
5. Students have expressed concerns about limited transportation services within the university premises due to the distance between blocks.

2.2 Recommendations

1. The University should develop and conduct awareness programs for the research students to help them understand the research opportunities, IRSIP, program requirements and the use of HEC digital library.
2. The university is encouraged to organize extracurricular activities and provide sports facilities for postgraduate students.
3. Following discussions with graduate students, there is a suggestion to increase the percentage of merit-based scholarships available for postgraduate students.
4. The university is recommended to enhance and improve the internet connectivity across the campus.
5. The university may start a shuttle service for students and faculty within the university.

3.0 Infrastructure / Visit

3.1 Findings

1. University has well maintained infrastructure i.e Building, mosque, library, agriculture fields and laboratories etc
2. Adequate research labs have been established and are well-maintained. The utilization of laboratory space is optimized efficiently.





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3. The university possesses a library system; however, there is room for improvement by augmenting the collection of books and journals. Additionally, implementing automated facilities for book borrowing and returns would be beneficial.
4. The sports gymnasium is under construction.

3.2 Recommendations

1. Infrastructure related to sports, and other outdoor / indoor activities of the students need to be enhanced.
2. The university needs further improvements by having a reasonable number of books, journals and automated facilities to borrow and return the books.

4.0 Overall Findings

1. The curriculum requires updates, specifically in creating a uniform format inclusive of Schemes of Studies, establishing minimum-maximum duration, and defining credit hours. Furthermore, course codes do not adhere to standard formats. Additionally, several curricula lack practical part contents.
2. In some cases, faculty files did not contain equivalency obtained from the Higher Education Commission for the foreign qualified Ph.D. faculty members.
3. The University has good industrial linkages at national and international level.
4. The University consistently holds statutory body meetings as per the scheduled frequency.
5. Some programs share the same faculty which does not meet the HEC Minimum Criteria for MS/MPhil and PhD Programs.
6. The administration did not provide the comprehensive list of faculty members program wise as desired by the committee.





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4.1. Recommendations

1. At least two full time Ph.D. qualified faculty members are required as per the minimum requirement prescribed by the Higher Education Commission to launch an M.Phil./MS level program, and at least three Ph.D. qualified faculty members in case of a Ph.D. program. The university should hire qualified Ph.D. faculty. Till the hiring of the Ph.D. qualified faculty, all those programs having less than required number of Ph.D. qualified faculty should be halted with immediate effect.
2. The university should seek revised NOCs from QAD-HEC, Islamabad, especially in cases where faculty names are missing or have been altered.

----- END OF REPORT -----

