



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN) Website: www.hec.gov.pk

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CONSULTANT

No. 1-10/HEC/Consultant/US/2017

Dated: 14 Feb, 2017

Subject: Opportunities for Pakistani Scholars to pursue PhD Studies in Top US Universities under "US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor"

My dear Vice Chancellor/Rector,

I am writing to request for your supportive involvement in one of the core objectives of HEC, the facilitation of *Knowledge Economy*. In this context, I am pleased to inform you that with support from Government of Pakistan, the ECNEC has approved the PhD grant Program at Leading US universities (Phase-1) under "US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor" on Jan 25, 2017.

2. The Pak-US Knowledge Corridor was conceptualized in June 2015, as a result of the PAK-US Education, Science & Technology working group (ESTWG) under the bilateral strategic dialogue. The Government of Pakistan envisions enhancing enrollment in tertiary education by 2025 and extend outreach of HEIs at district level; for this purpose, US-Pakistan Knowledge corridor aims to provide opportunities for 10,000 Pakistani scholars for doctoral studies enabling HEIs to have highly qualified PhD faculty. In the initial phase, HEC is focusing on sending 1,500 PhD scholars to the leading US universities from Fall-2017.

3. As a connecting link, an open "Call for Scholarship" for prospective candidates has already been advertised in the national dailies of Pakistan on 9th February, 2017 and the deadline for the opportunity is 10th March, 2017. The Vice Chancellors / Rectors of HEIs of Pakistan are requested to support the following critical aspects of US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor opportunities for the prospective candidates of their respective universities:

- Encourage prospective PhD scholars to avail the opportunity by the deadline 10th March, 2017 on the following link: portal.hec.gov.pk/US-pakcorridor
- Explore and encourage already enrolled PhD scholars in ranked US universities to benefit from the opportunity (The list of recommended US universities is available on www.hec.gov.pk/site/US-PakCorridor)
- Disseminate the Call for Scholarship among faculty & students through other suitable channels on priority basis. HEC is forwarding posters to all universities for reasonable projection of PhD Scholarships under US-Pak Knowledge Corridor.

4. I would like to inform you that HEC is also pursuing "Talent Farming Process" concerning GRE & TOEFL training since November 2016, in collaboration with "United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan" (USEFP) to increase enrollment in the US universities.

5. I request you to participate in the process and encourage outstanding scholars from your prestigious University to seek this opportunity of doctoral studies in the US.

Yours sincerely,

(Prof. Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hasan Butt)

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