

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Pakistan Scottish PhD research travel grant

### 1. What is the Pakistan Scottish PhD research travel grant?

The Scottish Government in partnership with British Council is providing PhD research travel grants for women to conduct their research or dissertation in a Scottish University and is delighted to be supporting this scheme which will help women in Pakistan achieve their potential and ambitions, aiding them to build a secure future for themselves and their families.

The British Council Pakistan will administer the grants in Pakistan and coordinate with the selected scholars for travel, subsistence etc. The grants aim to facilitate female PhD students enrolled in Pakistani Universities carry out research in Scotland. The applicant will be responsible for contacting and confirming a placement to carry out research in any University in Scotland.

### 2. Who can apply?

The scheme is aimed at young women in Pakistan, falling under the following criteria:

- Only female applicants can apply
- Applicant must be a Pakistani national, currently residing in Pakistan
- Applicant must be currently enrolled in a PhD programme in an Higher Education Commission recognised university in Pakistan
- Applicant must have an approval for their research proposal from a University in Scotland.

### 3. What is offered in this scholarship? What else is covered, in addition to this?

Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme will facilitate award-holders with the following incentives:

- Travel Expenses: Return ticket to Scotland + Visa fee + Insurance cost
- Living costs for a period of maximum three months: rent + subsistence

### 4. What areas/locations and/or universities is this grant offered at?

The PS3 covers research travel grants to women enrolled in a PhD programme at any HEC-recognised university in Pakistan. The names of these universities can be found at:

<http://www.hec.gov.pk/ourinstitutes/pages/default.aspx>

The receiving/ host university however must be based in Scotland.

### 5. Will I receive more than one return ticket to Scotland in case I need to travel back in between my research in Scotland to Pakistan?

No, the ticket will be covered only once

### 6. What if my stay exceeds three months?

The grant will cover expenses only for three months. Anything over and above will have to be covered by the applicant.

### 7. Do I need to be enrolled in a PhD programme before I apply for the Pakistan Scottish PhD Research Travel Grants?

Yes. Those applicants who are not enrolled in a PhD programme at the time of application will be considered ineligible.

**8. Can applicants apply to visit a civil society organisation that carry out research activities?**

No, applicants should apply only to a public or private Higher Education Institution in Scotland.

**9. Should both the statement of support from the home institution and the letter of invitation from the host institution be in English or are local languages also acceptable?**

The supporting statement and the letter of invitation must be written in English.

**10. Can I apply for the grant without a confirmed acceptance to carry out research from a University in Scotland?**

No. Only applicants holding a confirmed offer or approval for their research proposal from a University in Scotland will be considered eligible

**11. Can I apply for a short or part-time course at a university in Scotland?**

No. The grant will be given for the purpose of research for PhD only.

**12. Can I apply for a grant if I am living outside Pakistan?**

No.

**13. Will my family and children's expenses be covered in the research travel grant?**

No. The Pakistan Scottish research travel grant will only cater to the expenses of the successful candidates, within the agreed terms, and not additional people who may be accompanying them. Married students who wish to bring their children and family will have to make arrangements for them on their own.

**14. Can I defer my scholarship for the next academic session?**

No, it is not possible to get a deferral for the Pakistan Scottish PhD research travel grant.

**15. Will I be informed if my application is not selected?**

No, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

**16. What is the selection criterion?**

The Pakistan Scottish PhD research travel grants is merit based and will be assessed against the strength of application in terms of relevance to home and host country, contribution to the subject area and impact and output of the research.

**17. Are there any limitations with regard to the area of research?**

No the PhD research could be related to any field or topic