

Pakistan

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Higher Education Commission is responsible for defining national policies in higher education (<http://www.hec.gov.pk/english/Pages/Home.aspx>).

Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- National Vision: “Vision 2025”

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- “This calls for an increase in enrolment in higher education in a manner that is equitable in terms of gender and region and helps to deliver a fairer and just society” (Vision 2025, p8)
- “Major programs to be delivered to achieve this priority [increase equitable access] include:
 - The expansion of the higher education sector, principally at Tiers II and III to enable the enrolment of 15% of the 17-23 year old population by 2024-25. In parallel, with this expansion there is a need to improve the quality and vocational relevance of the courses offered at these institutions.
 - Establish 15 new public ‘Science and Technology, ICT, Agriculture, Medicine and allied health professions’30 institutions. These institutions shall engage internationally and support the priority sectors identified in the 11th Five Year National Development Plan.
 - Improve monitoring and evaluation of HEIs through a better staffed Quality Assurance Division (QAD). Establish further public and private campus-based institutions as well as the number of online programs.
 - Improve the ICT infrastructure and availability and provision of digital materials and services across the sector.” (Vision 2025, p9)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Gender groups
- Minority groups
- Students with disability
- Students from underdeveloped regions

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No specific targets.

Pakistan does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Activities planned as part of increasing equitable access (Vision 2025):

- “Establish new universities to increase access to higher education
- Enroll and graduate 200,000 students in postgraduate programs
- Increase capacity for teacher training programs
- Increase funding for existing tuition fee waiver and laptop distribution schemes
- Direct all institutions to raise philanthropic funds to provide scholarships for disadvantaged students
- Fund 7,000 scholarships for domestic PhDs during 2017-2021, increasing to 9,000 during 2021 - 2025
- Funding to support increased enrolment in distance education programs
- Increase the number and quality of affiliated colleges
- Development and implementation of a new student loan program. Collection and analysis of enrolment data”

Monetary Policy Instruments

What are the main financial instruments to promote equity?

- No tuition fees in public institutions
- Fee reimbursement scheme for students from less developed regions enrolled in private institutions
(<http://hec.gov.pk/english/scholarshipsgrants/tfp/Pages/default.aspx>)

“No incentives exist for tertiary education institutions to offer outreach programs to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, nor established mechanisms to allow student transfers between similar or different types of institutions.” (World Bank SABER p 27)

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

What are the main non-monetary instruments to promote equity?

- Non-discrimination clause and quotas for persons with disabilities (<http://hec.gov.pk/english/services/universities/Pages/Policy.aspx>)

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Higher Education Commission is responsible for monitoring progress in higher education, including on equity dimensions.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Pakistan does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources:

“SABER Country Report 2017: Pakistan” World Bank Group

http://wbgfiles.worldbank.org/documents/hdn/ed/saber/supporting_doc/CountryReports/TED/SABER_Tertiary_Education_Pakistan_Country_Report_2017.pdf

UGC 2025 Vision: [https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-](https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/International/PakistanHE_iNotes_June17_final.pdf)

[analysis/reports/Documents/International/PakistanHE_iNotes_June17_final.pdf](https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/International/PakistanHE_iNotes_June17_final.pdf)

Policy for Students with Disabilities for Higher Learning Institutes in Pakistan.

Higher

Education

Commission

<http://hec.gov.pk/english/services/universities/Pages/Policy.aspx>