



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, Website: <http://www.hec.gov.pk>

Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum
Executive Director

No. HEC/IT/2023/5496
December 15, 2023

Subject: Centralized Test for IT Graduates Leading to Placement in IT Industry

Dear Vice Chancellor / Rector,

As you are well aware that IT industry is continuously evolving at a rapid pace driven by technological advancements, innovation & research, digital transformation and globalization. Along with these challenges, the changing landscape of IT industry is opening up the doors for large number of opportunities and huge demand of IT professionals on variety of skillset, which may be capitalized by strengthening industry-academia linkages and providing an opportunity to enrolled IT students to timely navigate through it.

In this regard, a series of meetings were held amongst the relevant stakeholders including National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), Ministry of IT & Telecommunication (MoITT), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Pakistan IT Industry Association (P@SHA) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to identify the IT industry-academia gap and ways to improve the market readiness of IT students. As an initial step, in consultation with stakeholders, a centralized test is being planned through Virtual University (VU) for the placement of bright IT students in the industry under academia-industry co-opt program as per details mentioned below;

- The test shall be conducted by Virtual University of Pakistan for the enrolled students of 7th semester in computing related disciplines offered in public & private sector universities and affiliated colleges. The list of such disciplines is attached at **Annex-A**.
- The test shall be conducted on Sunday, **7th January 2024**. The students may apply on <https://www.vu.edu.pk/GradateTest/> portal for registration till **31st December 2023**.
- Students qualifying the test will be offered placement in IT companies including top IT exporters in Pakistan through P@SHA to acquire hands-on experience on real-time projects.
- The qualifying candidates of above-mentioned co-opt program will be considered for an exemption up to 06 credit hours in 8th Semester against electives or mandatory field experience.

Spring 2024 will be the first session for the industry placement program.

• Upon successful completion of the co-opt program, the credentials of the candidates with recommendations shall be placed on PSEB and P@SHA portals for access of large pool of IT companies leading to job offers.



Your kind support is required to ensure the wide dissemination of the information in your respective university and constituent / affiliated colleges for participation of all the students in target cohort in the upcoming scheduled test. For smooth liaison through-out the process, a **Focal Person** of the university may please be nominated, the contact information of whom may please be shared through Registrar Office through e-mail only with hkasi@hec.gov.pk, tali@hec.gov.pk, focalperson@vu.edu.pk by **December 26, 2023**. The role of focal person shall be to verify the final list of students who have applied from each university.

The primary objective of this initiative is to ensure that our IT graduates are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and attributes to excel in the ever-changing IT industry. I am confident, through mutual collaboration and right interventions we can respond to the unprecedented demands of IT sector (national and international markets) through professional development and upskilling of IT graduates.


(Executive Director)
Higher Education Commission

Distribution:

All Vice Chancellors/Rectors/Head of Public and Private Universities

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- ES to Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- Additional Secretary, MoIT&T, Islamabad
- Member IT, MoIT&T, Islamabad
- Chairman National Computing Education Accreditation Council, Islamabad
- Mr. Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman P@SHA, Islamabad
- Managing Director, Pakistan Software Export Board, Islamabad
- Rector, Virtual University Islamabad, Islamabad
- Advisor (Academics), Higher Education Commission, Islamabad



Annex-A (List of Programs)

1. BS in Computer Science
 2. BS in Software Engineering
 3. BS in Artificial Intelligence
 4. BS in Data Science
 5. BS in Cyber Security
 6. BS in Information Systems
 7. BS in Multimedia and Gaming
 8. BS in Information Technology
 9. BS in Computer Engineering
 10. BS in Bioinformatics
 11. Bachelor of Computer & Information Technology (Hons)
 12. BE (Software Engineering)
 13. BE (Computer Engineering)
 14. BE (Computer Systems Engineering)
 15. BS Information Engineering Technology
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