Proposal

for

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS)

1. Introduction

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) is committed to providing equitable access to higher education for all students, including persons with disabilities. In line with the directives of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, this policy aims to ensure an inclusive, accessible, and supportive academic environment across all university programs and services.

2. Objectives

- To ensure equal opportunities for students with disabilities in higher education
- To create an inclusive and barrier-free learning environment
- To ensure compliance with HEC policies and national regulations

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All undergraduate and postgraduate programs (including MS/MPhil and PhD)
- All academic, administrative, and support services within the University

4. Definitions

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs):

Individuals with physical, visual, hearing, intellectual, or other impairments that may affect their full participation in academic and campus life.

5. Policy Provisions

5.1 Admissions and Academic Entitlements

- The University shall strictly comply with the government-mandated disability quota in admissions

- At least one seat in each department shall be reserved for students with disabilities in MS/MPhil and PhD programs
- Admission criteria shall be adapted to consider the nature and extent of disability, in addition to academic merit
- A mandatory age relaxation of up to ten (10) years shall be granted for admission

5.2 Examination and Assessment Accommodations

The University shall ensure:

- Use of assistive technologies such as screen readers (JAWS, NVDA), Braille, and oral/recorded examinations
- Provision of a scribe/writer where required; the University shall arrange one if the student is unable to do so
- Granting of 25% additional time during examinations
- Allocation of a separate examination room where necessary
- No penalty for spelling or handwriting errors where disability warrants such accommodation

5.3 Financial Support and Welfare

- Tuition fees, hostel charges, and utility fees shall be waived for financially deserving students with disabilities, in line with applicable national benchmarks
- Eligible students may also apply for other national and international scholarships without restriction

5.4 Human Resource and Employment

- The University shall implement the prescribed disability quota in recruitment for faculty, administrative, and officer positions
- All job advertisements shall clearly indicate reserved positions for persons with disabilities

5.5 Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The University shall establish a Disability Resource Center responsible for:

- Providing assistive devices and technologies

- Facilitating accessible transportation services
- Ensuring campus accessibility (ramps, elevators, etc.)
- Offering academic and support services to students with disabilities

5.6 Infrastructure and Digital Accessibility

The University shall ensure:

- Barrier-free physical infrastructure, including ramps, elevators, and accessible washrooms
- Accessibility of digital platforms, including Learning Management Systems (LMS) and websites
- Availability of accessible transportation facilities where applicable

6. Implementation Mechanism

- This policy shall be formally approved by the Academic Council and Syndicate/Board of Governors
- The Director Quality Assurance shall oversee implementation and compliance
- All departments and administrative units shall be responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Periodic internal audits shall be conducted to assess compliance
- Feedback from students with disabilities shall be regularly obtained
- An annual compliance report shall be prepared and reviewed by the relevant authorities