

# ORIC NEWSLETTER

Issue:07 Volume: 2026

## HIGHLIGHTS

- TUF Small Grant Program
- PHEC Research Cluster Submission
- Industry-Academia Linkages
- Seminars and workshops
- Faculty Participation in Scientific Program
- Research Funding Opportunities
- Significant Publications



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# TUF Small Grants Program 2026

Under the TUF Small Grants Program, faculty members from academic departments submitted 25 research and prototype development projects. The submitted projects focused on innovative and application-oriented solutions in areas including Artificial Intelligence, healthcare, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, cybersecurity, business, environmental monitoring, and physiotherapy.

| Sr. No. | Department                          | Name                          | Designation         |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1       | Computer Science                    | Muhammad Arham                | Lecturer            |
| 2       |                                     | Dr Talha Farooq Khan          | Assistant Professor |
| 3       |                                     | Arqam Bashir                  | Lecturer            |
| 4       | Biochemistry and Biotechnology      | Ghulam Murtaza Kamal          | Lecturer            |
| 5       |                                     | Dr Shaista Shafiq             | Associate Professor |
| 6       |                                     | Dr Muhammad Tjammal Rehman    | Lecturer            |
| 7       | Mathematics, Physics and Statistics | Dr Bushra Sana Idrees         | Assistant Professor |
| 8       | National Business School            | Dr Muhammad Saeed Ahmad       | Assistant Professor |
| 9       |                                     | Dr Samra Subhani              | Assistant Professor |
| 10      |                                     | Dr Usman Ali                  | Assistant Professor |
| 11      | Madina College of Pharmacy          | Muhammad Nafees               | Lecturer            |
| 12      |                                     | Dr Aamna Habib                | Principal           |
| 13      |                                     | Rimsha Zaheer                 | Lecturer            |
| 14      |                                     | Misbah Rasool                 | Lecturer            |
| 15      | Department of Pharmacy              | Ammara Afzal                  | Lecturer            |
| 16      |                                     | Dr Sadia Rafique              | Associate Professor |
| 17      |                                     | Dr Sana Javed                 | Assistant Professor |
| 18      |                                     | Dr Sana Shahzad               | Associate Professor |
| 19      |                                     | Ms Rafia Noor                 | Lecturer            |
| 20      |                                     | Usman Azhar                   | Lecturer            |
| 21      | Rehabilitation Sciences             | Dr Wajeeha Sahar              | Assistant Professor |
| 22      |                                     | Maryam Farooq                 | Lecturer            |
| 23      |                                     | Dr Muhammad Muneeb Jafar (PT) | Assistant Professor |
| 24      |                                     | Najeeb Ullah Khan             | Lecturer            |
| 25      |                                     | Dr Anbreena Rasool (PT)       | Assistant Professor |

# TUF Faculty Submitted Research Proposals under PHEC R&D Clusters Initiative

The University of Faisalabad (TUF) submitted eight research proposals under the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) R&D Clusters Initiative. The proposals covered key areas including urban and rural development, democratic self-governance, population planning, gender mainstreaming, legal reforms and inter-provincial harmony. TUF extended its best wishes to the participating faculty members for continued success in their research endeavors.

| Sr # | Department               | Name               | Designation         |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | National Business School | Dr Muhammad Ashfaq | Professor           |
| 2    |                          | Dr Naveed Anjum    | Lecturer            |
| 3    |                          |                    |                     |
| 4    |                          | Dr Sobia Maqsood   | Assistant Professor |
| 5    |                          |                    |                     |
| 6    |                          | Dr Tayab Tahir     | Assistant Professor |
| 7    | Department of Law        | Dr Saqlain Haider  | Assistant Professor |
| 8    |                          |                    |                     |

## TUF SIGNED MoU WITH CAPITAL CONSULTANTS

TO PROMOTE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

TUF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Capital Consultants, Islamabad, to strengthen collaboration in research, innovation, technology development, knowledge transfer, and commercialization.



### KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Joint identification and development of indigenous technologies and import-replacement projects.



Transfer of technology and knowledge trainings in areas of mutual interest.



Collaboration on international research projects and funding opportunities.



Guidance and mentoring for students for global scholarships and internship opportunities.



Scaling up of university technologies into commercial or industrial projects.



This collaboration marked a significant step toward strengthening university–industry linkages, promoting innovation-led solutions, and contributing to socio-economic development.

# TUF Ranked Among the World's Leading Universities for Sustainability

The University of Faisalabad (TUF) achieved a significant milestone by securing a global position in the 401–600 band in the Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026 and attaining 3rd position among private sector universities in Pakistan.

The recognition highlighted TUF's continued efforts towards promoting sustainability and contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The achievement reflected the University's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into its educational, research, innovation, and community engagement initiatives. Through its academic and research activities, TUF demonstrated its contribution to addressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. The University's initiatives in research and innovation supported the development of solutions aligned with the SDGs, while its community-focused activities strengthened its role in creating meaningful and sustainable social impact. The achievement marked another important step in TUF's journey towards strengthening its global academic presence and contributing to a more sustainable future.

**TUF Committed to Excellence. Driven by Sustainability.**



## Degree Show 2026 Celebrated Creativity and Innovation

The Department of Design & Interiors organized the Degree Show 2026, showcasing the creativity, innovation, and design excellence of graduating students. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof Dr Aman Ullah Malik, Rector, The University of Faisalabad. Ms Afsheen Javaid, Head, Department of Architecture, Ms Saba Afzal, Acting Head, Department of Design & Interiors, along with Heads of other Departments and distinguished guests, visited the exhibition stalls and appreciated the students' outstanding projects, craftsmanship, and innovative ideas. The event concluded with an Award Distribution Ceremony, recognizing the achievements, dedication, and artistic excellence of the participating students.



# TUF Hosted National Higher Education Leadership Engagement Series on PSG-2023

The University of Faisalabad (TUF), through the collaborative efforts of the Centre of Executive Learning (CEL) and the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), hosted the National Higher Education Leadership Engagement Series on PSG-2023 under the theme, The Quality Compact: From Conformity to Ownership – Empowering Institutions, Building a Resilient Quality Ecosystem. The national-level engagement brought together around 70 senior academic leaders, including Rectors, Vice Chancellors, Deans, Registrars, Directors of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs), and representatives from universities across Pakistan.



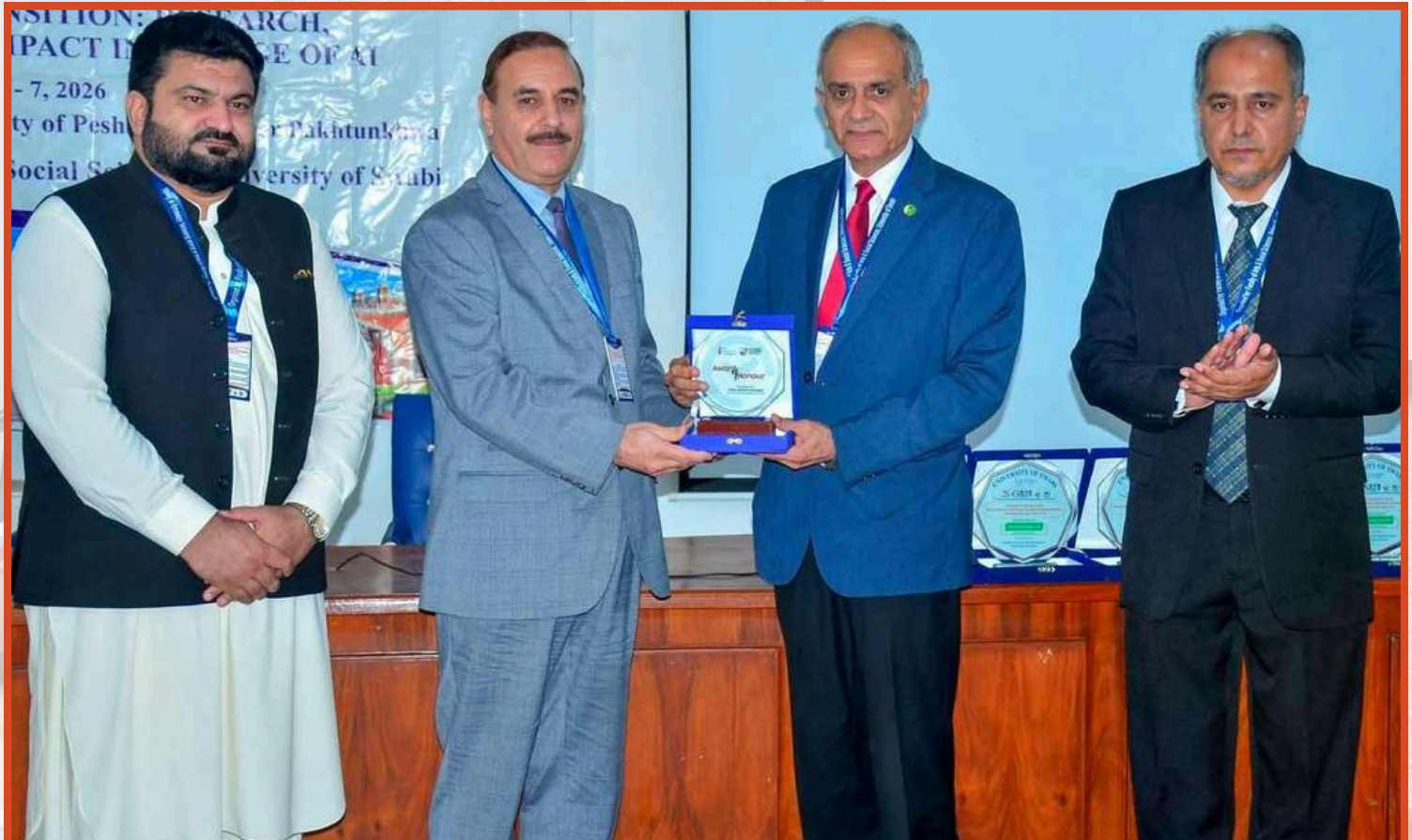
Distinguished resource persons from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and international institutions shared insights on quality assurance and institutional leadership. The distinguished guests were welcomed by Dr Muhammad Hamza Amin, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, Prof Dr Aman Ullah Malik, Rector, Dr Zahida Maqbool, Registrar, and Dr Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Director QEC. The keynote session was delivered by Mr Nasir Shah, Director General, Quality Assurance, HEC, who highlighted multicultural diversity and inclusive learning environments and elaborated on PSG-2023 and the transition from compliance-oriented quality assurance to the Quality Compact approach. Mr Nasir Shah also highlighted the role of Performance Review Meetings (PRMs) in evidence-based reflection, strategic planning, and continuous quality enhancement.



He reaffirmed HEC's commitment to future collaboration with TUF, including a National Conference on Industry–Academia Linkages at TUF, and appreciated the University's management and the leadership of Dr Muhammad Hamza Amin, Vice Chairman BOG. A technical session titled "From Compliance to Institutional Ownership & Maturity" was conducted by Mr Agha Muhammad Raza, focusing on institutional maturity, leadership commitment, stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and sustainable quality systems. The session emphasized leadership commitment, stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and data-driven decision-making for sustainable quality systems. It concluded with an interactive Q&A, enabling participants to exchange views and best practices on PSG-2023 and the Quality Compact approach, strengthening institutional commitment to a resilient quality culture.

## TUF Advanced Research Collaboration at National Conference 2026

Prof Dr Muhammad Ashfaq, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, The University of Faisalabad (TUF), was invited as a Keynote Speaker at the Two-Day National Conference 2026, titled “Knowledge in Transition: Research, Responsibility, and Impact in the Age of AI,” held at the University of Peshawar and organized by the University of Swabi. During the conference, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq shared insights on the evolving role of research, innovation, and responsible AI use in higher education, engaging scholars, researchers, and academic leaders from across Pakistan. On the occasion, The University of Faisalabad (TUF) and the University of Swabi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic collaboration through research and development, faculty and student exchange, joint academic initiatives, and institutional linkages. The collaboration reflected TUF’s continued commitment to academic excellence, research partnerships, innovation, and knowledge sharing in higher education.



# TUF Hosted SEE Pakistan Regional Round 2026

The University of Faisalabad (TUF) hosted the SEE Pakistan Regional Round 2026, a flagship event of the World Startup Championship 2026, bringing together aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, mentors, industry leaders, faculty members, and startup enthusiasts from across the Faisalabad Region. The event featured Mr Waheed Khalq Ramay, Chairman, Council of Power Looms and Industries, Pakistan, Prof Dr Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Director, ORIC, Muiz Ali, Team Lead, SEE Pakistan; and Prof Dr Majid Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology. Their addresses highlighted the significance of innovation, entrepreneurship, academia-industry collaboration, and startups in strengthening Pakistan's digital economy. The participation of CEOs and representatives from leading regional technology companies provided valuable opportunities for networking, mentorship, and industry engagement, connecting emerging entrepreneurs with the wider technology ecosystem. The regional round also provided aspiring startups with a platform to present their innovative ideas, receive expert feedback, and engage with mentors and industry professionals. The event encouraged entrepreneurial thinking and promoted the development of innovative solutions with potential for real-world impact.



# RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



National Institutes  
of Health  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

## NIH RESEARCH GRANTS & FUNDING 2027

ADVANCING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.  
IMPROVING HEALTH. SAVING LIVES.



**RESEARCH GRANTS**  
Support innovative  
biomedical and  
behavioral research.



**FELLOWSHIPS**  
Advance your  
research training  
and career.



**CAREER DEVELOPMENT**  
Build the skills and  
experience to become  
a leader in research.



**TRAINING PROGRAMS**  
Strengthen the next  
generation of scientists  
and researchers.



**GLOBAL IMPACT**  
Research today for  
better health  
tomorrow.



**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
RESEARCHERS, TRAINEES & INSTITUTIONS**  
Explore grants, fellowships, and training  
opportunities in 2027.



**DISCOVER. APPLY. ADVANCE.**  
Find the right funding opportunity  
to support your research and  
career goals.



**FIND OPPORTUNITIES & APPLY**  
[grants.nih.gov](https://grants.nih.gov)

GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND (GIF)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Open Applications Worldwide

Funding innovative solutions that address  
global development challenges.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS



NGOs



Startups



CSOs



Research institutions



Social enterprises



Impact-driven  
businesses

### PRIORITY AREAS



Climate &  
Environment



Agriculture &  
Food Systems



Health



Economic  
Empowerment



Education



Technology for  
Development



**OPEN WORLDWIDE**

Applications welcomed from all countries.



**APPLY NOW**

<https://lnkd.in/dh-X5uqC>





Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Call for Research Proposals

## PERIDOT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAMME

Phase-XIII

Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan invites applications from Pakistan's faculty members of public and private universities, for funding under the **PAK-FRANCE PERIDOT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAMME**

PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Programme, providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities. The programme is implemented in Pakistan by HEC and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Development (MAEDI) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR). The objective of this programme is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions (HEIs)/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides.

### Priority Areas

HEC invites joint research proposals for mobility grant from Pakistani faculty members of public and private universities in the following three areas:

  
Health  
Sciences

  
Sustainable Energy,  
Agriculture & Food Security

  
Economics of  
Climate Change

#### How to Apply

-  Applications should reach HEC no later than **September 30, 2026** till **1600 hours** (Pakistan Standard Time).
-  Online portal will be open for applications from **July 6, 2026**.
-  Please note that a joint application (in collaboration with a French faculty member) that has been submitted to Campus France is a mandatory pre-requisite for applying to this grant.

# RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITES

**INVEST.  
INSPIRE.  
EMPOWER.**

A better future  
for women and  
girls worldwide.



## Together Women Rise Featured Grants 2027



### *Focus:*

Supporting impactful projects that improve the lives of women and girls in low-income and marginalized communities across the Global South.



### *Grant Amount:*

\$35,000 – \$50,000  
over a two-year period



### *Who Can Apply:*

Nonprofits, NGOs, and community-based organizations in the Global South



### *Purpose:*

Expand programs, strengthen capacity, and drive lasting change



**Deadline: Applications Open**

**Apply Now →**

## Significant Publications

- Jabeen, F. (2026). Income-stratified waste characterization, informal recycling and circular economy implications in a South Asian industrial city. *Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. **IF: 1.3**
- Khan, T. F. (2026). Output layer configurations for binary classification: Single-neuron versus dual-neuron approaches. *PeerJ Computer Science*. **IF: 2.5**
- Khan, T. F., & Hussain, M. (2026). A comparative and interpretable machine learning framework for reliable diabetes risk prediction. *Scientific Reports*. **IF: 4.9**
- Sahar, W. (2026). Effect of home-based cardiac rehabilitation on quality of life, health behaviours and cardiac anxiety in patients with coronary artery disease: Findings from a single-blinded randomised controlled trial. *BMJ OPEN*. **IF: 2.5**
- Sahar, W. (2026). Molecular and pathophysiological mechanisms underlying ischemic heart disease (IHD): An integrative narrative review. *Pakistan Heart Journal*. **IF: 0.5**