Quality Enhancement Cell

NUCES-FAST is determined to manage quality assurance through its designed processes to bring continuous improvement in its teaching - learning and research. Being the final processing point of the graduates for the market, QEC designs and implements adequate quality assurance mechanisms to ensure that graduates are satisfactorily equipped with requisite skills and competencies to meet present day workforce requirements. QEC at NUCES-FAST is taking deliberate steps to bring about continual improvement in the effectiveness of the learning experience of students. In QEC, there is great emphasis on Quality Assessment and encouragement of institutional "Quality Culture". In this regard, QEC is responsible to ensure that all the quality related policies, standards and guidelines issued by Higher Education Commission (HEC) are being implemented in true spirit.

Vision

Support the university's vision by adapting best practices suggested by accreditation bodies while conforming with the university policies.

Mission

Adapt existing state-of-the-art higher education quality improvement strategies, while engaging with all stakeholders.

Objectives:

1. Enhancing the pedagogical skills of the instructors to achieve learning outcomes of curriculum and effectively engage with the students.
2. Provide coaching related to the processes and procedures prescribed by the accreditation bodies, to the academic staff.
3. To communicate and coordinate with all the stakeholders (students, instructors, staff, alumni, employers, subject experts, etc.) for feedback with the aim of improvement of education quality.
4. Formulate analytical reports extracted from the received feedback from the stakeholders, i.e., surveys related to infrastructure, teacher evaluation, alumni, employer etc. and provide recommendations to the statutory bodies of the university.
5. Promote automation of quality related processes to develop an effective, viable and sustainable ecosystem of quality assurance at the university.
6. Ensuring the compliance of quality assurance procedures in accordance with the guidelines provided by HEC and accreditation councils.
7. Provide assistance to academic departments to meet the expectations of accreditation bodies in terms of data gathering and reporting.
8. Tailor curricular and co-curricular activities to meet the requirements of ranking organizations.

Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) implements internal quality assurance (IQA) mechanism of the university. QECs are established in all campuses and are run as per HEC guidelines. QEC at NUCES is constantly striving to maintain excellent scores in annual quantitative assessment of HEC. This achievement in IQA directly contributes in achieving higher accreditation status from relevant accreditation councils, working under external quality assurance (EQA) mechanism of HEC. . The recognition at both IQA & EQA clearly demonstrates NUCES-FAST efforts to burgeon quality standards of education at all levels.

Consequently, FAST-NU QEC introduced innovative strategies to manage more effectively the internal quality assurance processes of the institution by providing quality academic programs and holistic teaching-learning environment to the students at undergraduate and graduate level. At FAST-NU we regularly conduct surveys in order to collect valuable feedback from various stakeholders including students, faculty, alumni, industry and others. These feedbacks are used to take the required measures for an overall improvement in the quality culture. Moreover, we give prime importance to the capacity building of our faculty, wherein, training workshops/ sessions have been organized by QEC for the faculty members and Teaching Assistants, so that they are equipped with all the necessary skills for delivering quality lectures. Further, at program level it is assured that all the undergraduate

QEC Team

Name	Designation	Campus
Dr. Muhamad Arshad Islam	Director QEC	NUCES-HQ
Ms. Khush Bakhat Awar	Assistant Manager	NUCES-HQ
Ms. Maria Ibrar	Manager	Peshawar
Mr. Umair Manzoor	Deputy Manager	Islamabad
Mr. Sekandar Riaz	Deputy Manager	Chiniot Faisalabad
Ms. Bushra Majeed	Assistant Manager	Lahore
Ms. Urooj Leghari	Assistant Manager	Karachi
Mr. Muddassar Latif Awan	QEC Officer	Lahore
Ms. Warda Razzaq	QEC Officer	Islamabad

programs being offered at FAST-NU are accredited by the relevant regulatory authorities and the graduate programs are self-assessed to monitor the implementation of requisite policies.

Currently NUCES QEC is a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and American Society for Quality (ASQ). These memberships offer ample opportunities to collaborate with the international members for benchmarking and standardization of best practices. Moreover, NUCES QEC also participates in their international events, as a significant contributor and participant.

Key Achievements (2022-2023)

Chiniot Faisalabad

- Grant Writing Workshop held on August 02, 2022
- One Day Hands-on Training Workshop on OBE held on August 04, 2022
- Training Workshop on Emotional and Social Quotient for Effective Pedagogical Skills held on August 11, 2022
- New Faculty Orientation held on August 18, 2022
- Training Session for the Teaching Assistants held on August 19, 2022
- Awareness Session on Importance of Student's Feedback – Freshmen held on September 14, 2022
- Report Hands-On Training Workshop on LaTex held on September 30, 2022 and October 07, 2022
- Report on Professional Dressing Skills held on October 28, 2022
- An awareness session on Library Resources and Quality Assurance for Graduate Students held on October 28, 2022

- Awareness Session on Wellbeing at Workplace held on November 17, 2022
- Two Days Training Workshop on "Quality Hygiene and Hospitality" held from December 02-03, 2022
- New Faculty Orientation held on January 20, 2023
- Faculty and Staff Meetup held on January 20, 2023
- Two-Day Hands-on Training Workshop on Data Visualization Using Data Studio held from January 25-26, 2023
- Training Session on Leadership: The Care and Growth Model held on January 27, 2023
- Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) visit held from February 8-10, 2023
- Post Graduate Program Review (PGPR) visit held on March 13, 2023.

Islamabad

- Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at FAST-NUCES organized an orientation session for all the newly joined faculty members on Thursday, August 18, 2022.
- Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 organized a capacity building session for the faculty members of FAST-NUCES, Islamabad Campus. The title of the session was Outcome Based Education (OBE), and the focal person for the said session was Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan
- Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at FAST-NU organized a training workshop for the Teaching Assistants (TAs) on Wednesday, August 10, 2022
- Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) of National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES) was conducted on May 8 - 9, 2023

- International Training and Project Meeting of the project "Strategic Support for Accreditation of Programs and Internationalization at South Asian Higher Education Institutes (SSAPI)" was held at the Maldives National University and Villa College, Maldives from 5th to 9th February, 2023.

Karachi

- The Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) of Karachi Campus was arranged on February 21 – 23, 2023.
- The Self-Assessment Review (SAR) of the BS-EE, MS-EE and PhD-EE programs was organized in coordination with the Electrical Engineering department on 29th September 2022.
- The Self-Assessment Review (SAR) of the BS-CS, MS-CS and PhD-CS programs was organized in coordination with the FAST School of Computing on 30th November 2022
- MS & PhD Program Review visit was conducted on April 28 & 29, 2023.

In addition to QEC core activities, Karachi campus has organized the following capacity building activities:

- On 14th July 2022 the FAST-NUCES, Karachi Campus, QEC department in coordination with the Library Organized an online session on "How MyLab Enhances Teaching and Learning Together".
- On August 11th, 2022, a workshop on Outcome Based Education for the faculty members. Dr. Muhammad Burhan Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, was the Resource Person.
- On 10th, August 2022, Mr. Muhammad Shahzad, Assistant

Professor, FAST School of Computing conducted a training.

- On 29th December, 2022 a Session on "Feedback Matters" was conducted.
- On Thursday 19th January, 2023 QEC organized the first aid training session for staff and faculty members.
- On Wednesday 8th March, 2023 QEC in coordination with Dr. Azhar Abdul Rasool, Officer wellness & sports organized the certificate distribution ceremony of the first aid training session for staff and faculty members.
- On 16th Feb 2023 a training session titled "Basic to Advanced MS Excel" was organized QEC for staff and faculty.

Lahore

Self-Assessment visits for MS (Applied Linguistics) and MS & PhD (Civil Engineering) were conducted. Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) visit held from 13th to 15th February 2023. Post Graduate Program Review (PGPR) visit held from 17th to 18th April 2023. Accreditation of BS (Computer Science) was held on 26th August 2022. Re-Accreditation visit of BS (Electrical Engineering) was held from 19th to 20th May 2023.

Apart from that QEC has arranged several training workshops:

- Training Session on "OBE Oriented Exam Preparation Skills" was held on 11th August 2022.
- Teaching Assistants training sessions were held on 15th August 2022.
- Newly hired faculty orientation sessions were held on 23rd August 2022 and 20th January 2023.

- Training Session on OBE – "Outcome Based Education" was held on 14th October 2022.
- Meet-Up Session of Director QEC with program Team was held on 2nd December 2022.
- Session on "Formulation of CLO's" was held on 2nd December 2022.
- Open House Session with Students regarding Infrastructure Survey Feedback was held on 7th December 2022.
- Bonfire Night for Team Building, Learning and Feedback was held on 12th January 2023.
- QEC staff attended a one-day workshop on the topic "Institutional Performance Evaluation – Efficiency and Effectiveness of Dimensional Model for Higher Education Institutions", on 28th January 2023.

Peshawar

Review panel visits were arranged for the evaluation of postgraduate programs and institutional performance, where program files, student files, and faculty files were reviewed, and students, faculty and staff were talk to and valuable suggestions for improvement were provided. QEC-PWR also arranged assessment team visits for the evaluation of Master of Science (Data Science) and Bachelor of Science (Software Engineering) programs.

The eminent review panelists were invited from all around Pakistan to take advantage from their expertise and vast exposure as an academician. They were (i) Prof. Dr. Bakhtiar Khan Kasi, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Information & Communication Technology, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUITEMS), (ii) Prof. Dr. Sharifullah Khan, Dean Faculty of Electrical, Computer IT & Design, Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology, Haripur, (iii) Dr. Fiaz Gul Khan from the Department of Computer Science at COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus, (iv) Dr. Aamir Saeed, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Information Technology, University of Engineering Technology, Jalozai and (v) Dr. Sajid Anwar, Associate Professor, Center for Excellence in IT from IM|Sciences Peshawar.

QEC-PWR actively organized various events and activities to enhance the quality of academic programs.

- Seminars on level 3 leadership and the care & growth model were arranged to foster personal and professional development among faculty, staff, and students.
- Awareness sessions on feedback mechanisms, training seminars on outcome-based education, and training workshops for teacher assistants were organized to promote effective communication and quality in education.
- A two-day training workshop on IT essentials - MS Excel was successfully conducted, enhancing the skills and productivity of staff members.