ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of Computer & Emerging Sciences FAST House, Rohtas Road, G-9/4 ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

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Preamble

As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement, we proudly present the Annual Report for the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST-NUCES). Founded as a Federally Chartered University in July 2000, FASTNUCES has emerged as a premier institution in Pakistan, distinguished by the quality and impact of its graduates in the local software and technology sectors. With five modern campuses strategically located in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Chiniot-Faisalabad, fostering an inclusive environment with a vibrant community of female scholars. Our commitment to providing a world-class educational experience is matched by our dedication to advancing research that addresses the pressing social, economic, and technological challenges facing our nation.

This report highlights the significant strides we have made towards our vision of becoming a globally recognized research University within the next decade. From groundbreaking research initiatives to innovative educational programs, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower our students and contribute meaningfully to Pakistan development. We invite you to explore our achievements, challenges, and the promising future that lies ahead as we continue to elevate standards in higher education and research.

Dr Aftab Ahmad Rector

Vision

To produce world- class professionals, who are responsible citizens and good human beings.

Mission

- 1. To identify and attract the most promising students from diverse communities, to shape them into visionary leaders and world- class professionals.
- 2. To impart quality education to students, irrespective of their financial background ethnicity, gender or religion to create an inclusive society.
- 3. To promote research and scholarly activities to generate knowledge.

The Foundation

The sponsoring body of the University – the Foundation for Advancement of Science and Technology (FAST) was established in 1980. It is registered with the Government of Pakistan as a charitable institution. In 1985, it selected higher education as a vehicle to pursue its objective of producing scientists and technologists of the highest caliber. FAST pioneered the development of IT industry in Pakistan by offering the country's first undergraduate program in Computer Science. Today, this University, sponsored by FAST, stands recognized as the leader and trend-setter in this field in Pakistan and abroad.

A Board of Governors, elected in accordance with its Charter, manages the affairs of the Foundation. The members of the Board are eminent personalities in their respective fields and are associated with the Foundation in an honorary capacity.

The University

Founded as a Federally Chartered University in July 2000, the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences is a premiere University of Pakistan, renowned for quality and impact of its students in the development of local software and other industries. The university has five modern campuses at Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Chiniot-Faisalabad. These campuses provide world class educational environment and recreational facilities to about 13,000 students, around one-quarter are female.

Research wings of the university are well recognized, nationally and internationally. They are embarked upon cutting edge research having direct impact on the social, economic and technological needs of Pakistan. Our vision is to become a globally recognized research university of Pakistan within the next decade.

University Campuses Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus

Situated at the junction of Pakistan's Textile Capital-Faisalabad and the historically rich city of Chiniot in suburbs of River Chenab, the Chiniot - Faisalabad campus is the 5th campus of the university. The campus symbolizes the desirable connection between nature and industry and between tradition and modernity. Its picturesque surroundings in the outskirts of Pakistan's Manchester, the home to the textile industry, represent human advancement from agrarian to industrial and technological society. Spanning around 30 acres along the Faisalabad Sargodha Road, approximately 9 kilometers from the M4 Motorway interchange towards Chiniot, this campus is a testament to academic excellence in both professional and personal realms. Following in the footsteps of its esteemed sister campuses in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Peshawar, graduates here are highly sought after by both national and multinational corporations, with many holding prominent positions in renowned institutions like Google, Facebook, and Microsoft.

FAST-NUCES Chiniot-Faisalabad is the first residential campus of the University offering Boys and Girls Hostel and allied facilities inside the campus. The campus is home to 1000+boys and girls residing in campus. Offering programs in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Electrical Engineering, and Business Administration, the campus boasts a distinguished faculty dedicated to nurturing academic excellence. State-of-the-art facilities, including advanced computing and engineering labs, provide students with hands-on experience and a conducive learning environment.

Moreover, the campus has catalyzed Faisalabad's technological landscape, fostering a surge in technology startups. Its strategic proximity to leading industrial enterprises promises to elevate the standard of professional education across the nation. Beyond academics, the campus fosters a vibrant student life, fostering holistic development through sports, competitions, and cultural events. From cricket to chess, students engage in a diverse array of activities that enrich their collegiate experience. The campus has state of the art computing, engineering and other support facilities. Spacious and well-equipped computer and engineering labs impart practical orientation to the students in their respective areas of study. Audio-visually supported and well-furnished classrooms offer a favorable, conducive, and constructive learning environment to the students.

The Campus other than academics offer a very vibrant student life to contribute towards the personality development of the students. Extends sports facilities in both indoor and outdoor games like cricket, football, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, futsal, and chess. Besides sports, healthy competitions in the fields of information technology, business and arts are frequently organized by the campus.

Islamabad Campus

The Islamabad campus is situated along the Srinagar Highway, offering a breathtaking vista of the picturesque capital city renowned for its beauty and tranquility. Nestled in such an exquisite locale, the campus provides a captivating and delightful view of the city.

Spanning over 15 acres of land, the campus is strategically located in the academic heart of the city. Its infrastructure, including the newly constructed eight-story academic block, reflects a futuristic approach. With a steadily expanding covered area, the campus's academic programs are continuously evolving.

Our campus boasts a highly qualified, fully committed, and professionally stimulated faculty dedicated to academic excellence. Our faculty members excel in teaching competence and are adept at integrating the latest advancements in science and technology into their instruction. They are accomplished researchers, contributors, and developers in their respective fields, conducting research in areas such as Intelligent Networks, Software Testing, Software Engineering, Machine Intelligence, Image Processing, Neural Networks, Embedded Systems, RF Systems, and Control Systems.

We offer undergraduate programs in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber Security, Electrical Engineering, Robotics, Business Administration, Analytics, and Accounting and Finance. Additionally, we provide Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Computer Networks and Security, Electrical Engineering, and Management Sciences.

Our graduates are highly sought after by both national and multinational corporations, holding prominent positions in companies such as Microsoft, Oracle, NCR, LMKR, IBM, Telenor, and Huawei. The campus is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for both academic and extracurricular activities. Our spacious and well-equipped computer and engineering labs provide students with practical training, while audio-visually supported and well-furnished classrooms offer an optimal learning environment.

To promote physical fitness and relaxation, we offer sports facilities for indoor and outdoor games, including cricket, football, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and chess. We also organize healthy programming competitions and events, such as NASCON, a national-level competition highly regarded by both industry and educational institutions across the country.

With over 24 student societies and clubs, we foster co-curricular activities to instill a sense of responsibility and leadership potential in our students.

We look forward to welcoming you to our campus and witnessing the vibrant atmosphere of academic excellence and innovation.

Karachi Campus

The Karachi Campus provides state-of-the-art facilities at two campuses. The Campus offers expertise of dynamic and staunch faculty members, a secure and healthy environment, and a variety of extracurricular opportunities for students to embrace their existing potentials. Adequate emphasis has been placed upon espousal of student well – being, which includes provision of quality education and availability of various extracurricular projects. Multiple inter campuses committees, student clubs and societies have been established to encourage the intellectual and social development of students, cumulatively. The Campus, while emboldening the entrepreneurial aspirations existing within the students, maintains facilities of Incubation and innovation centre as well. Students are provided with adherent mentoring and support. The esteemed faculty members help the students nurture their novel research and developmental ideas, substantially. The Main Campus is located on a six-acre site in Shah Latif Town on the National Highway, ten kilometers east of Karachi airport. The Campus has spacious, fully air conditioned classrooms, laboratories, auditorium, seminar rooms, sports room and a modern library. All Engineering Labs for power systems Electronics, Electrical, Control Engineering, Signal Processing, Telecommunications, Networking, and Multimedia are fully equipped. Computing labs feature the latest technology computers and workstations that use Linux and Windows-based environments. The Campus upholds a potential network infrastructure and provides seamless connectivity throughout. The Campus maintains a vibrant Research and Development culture. Faculty members are part of research groups. Research seminars, local IEEE, ACM and IET chapters' meetings and seminars are held on a regular basis. Enhancing the capacity building the campus has formed a centre for professional training where periodically different training and seminars are arranged to embrace, improve and retain existing knowledge and skills of the employees and students, respectively. A separate student facilitation centre with a distinctive library, commodious cafeteria, an extensive auditorium, and indoor sports facilities exists within the campus. The campus also includes Gym with latest equipment playgrounds for Cricket, Hockey, Football, Basketball, Badminton, futsal court, Volleyball. An in house Mosque is also available for the students and employees. The Campus extends efficient and comfortable transport services for students and staff to commute easily from varied locations across the city. An independent Placement and student Affairs office exists at Karachi Campus for facilitate the students in job placements and internships. The office arranges various recruitment related events both on campus and externally. The department provides career and skill development counselling to students, which helps them in effective resume writing, job hunting and personality building. This office even participates in resolving general student concerns and arranging various on campus, student engagement events. The Campus maintains a unique Language Lab to teach students English and other foreign languages while preparing them via video cameras, and round table discussions, for both National and International employability. The City Campus is situated on the main Shahrah-e-Faisal (near Nursery), hosts Postgraduate Studies. The City campus retains air conditioned, contemporary classrooms; high tech computer labs, Seminar Hall and an astounding library, integrated with the Main campus Library. All the facilities and services extended at the Main Campus are equivalently accessible for the students of City Campus as well. In addition to the University sponsored financial assistance and scholarships, Karachi Campus also receives scholarships for position holders from the Boards of Sindh and Baluchistan, Sindh Endowment Board Scholarship (40% urban and 60% rural quota, every year up to 40 scholarships), Baluchistan Endowment Board Scholarship, Memon Welfare Association's HEC-JICA etc. These funding, aid the students from challenged social backgrounds to pursue quality education smoothly, throughout their academic tenure. FAST NUCES Karachi campus while extending eminence provides quality education, a conducive learning environment and a creative learning experience to its students throughout their academic tenure.

Lahore Campus

Situated in the central region of Lahore, Faisal Town, the Lahore Campus spans 12.5 acres. The four blocks that make up the campus are a noteworthy addition to Lahore's rich architectural legacy with their distinctive external brickwork and spectacular marble domes. Entire purpose-built classrooms with air conditioning and educational aids, as well as several computer and engineering labs, are the hallmarks of campus facilities. Software engineering, database, programming, and computer application laboratories are all part of the computing labs. The newest workstations, PCs, and services with environments based on Windows and Linux are easily accessible to students. The Engineering laboratories consist of the following: Digital Systems, Communications, Antenna and Microwave, Microprocessors, Embedded Controls, and Electronics. The whole campus is fully equipped with high-speed Local Area Network and the latest wireless hotspots. Moreover, there is an Auditorium, Seminar Hall, Cafeteria, Girls Common Rooms, Day-Care, Medical Center, Career and Placement Office, Student Center, and International Office. In addition, Justice Gul Muhammad Library is facilitating FAST- NUCES, Lahore campus academic and research programs with prosperous information resources. FAST – NU Library is multi – discipline library having scholarly and research – oriented learning resources on Business Management, Computer Sciences, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Humanities, Applied Linguistics, and Mathematics. The library has more than 25000 printed books, around 400 centrally subscribed Ebscohost and Pearson e - books, a number of research Journals and Magazines, 13 HEC databases, and 10 national and international newspapers. The campus has facilities for both indoor and outdoor sports which include Football, Volleyball, Badminton, Cricket, Basketball, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis and Jogging. In addition to the University sponsored financial assistance and scholarships, Lahore Campus also receives scholarships for meritorious students from different Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education and Punjab Information Technology Board.

Peshawar Campus

The Peshawar campus is located in the vicinity of Hayatabad, a modern residential suburb of Peshawar. Spread over an area of 4 acres, the campus houses an academic and administrative block; constructed in the university's signature red brick architectural style, and a hostel for boys. It offers a conducive environment with green lawns, flora, plantations, and water fountains. The campus is conveniently close to multiple hospitals, markets, residential areas, sports complexes, government offices, and food streets. With multiple routes, transportation via the city's Metro BRT is quite convenient and economical and can be accessed through the university's own metro BRT bus stop.

To add value to the student learning process and academic excellence, the university has state of the art infrastructure and academic resources, along with highly qualified and committed faculty. The faculty are up-to-date with both scientific and technological progresses, industry requirements, and global trends in their respective fields. With one of the best students to faculty ratios, students have more exposure to learning and working closely with them. The campus has state of the art computing, engineering, and computer assisted language/ communications labs. High speed network access to all devices is made available through campus-wide wireless access points. There is a provision of GPU and bigdata enabled high performance computing facilities for its research students. There are separate labs for students of all levels who require them to work on their projects and research theses. The campus also offers co-working spaces and pre-incubation environment to selected students. The campus library has a collection of over 15,000 unique books, and hundreds of printed research journals. Subscriptions to research journals of IEEE, Springer, Science Direct, and ACM, are made and these can be accessed from student homes through VPN. All classrooms, labs, and halls are fully air-conditioned. For class-room learning, all rooms are equipped with audio/video facilities.

The campus highly encourages its students to get affiliated with various societies of the campus. Students are offered membership of local and regional chapters of the ACM, IEEE, and Microsoft. Technical societies deal with activities related to programming and engineering competitions, whereas social societies include activities associated to travel and hiking, indoor and outdoor sports, E-gaming, religious events, debating and fine arts, music, and other philanthropic activities.

Among the programs offered by the campus, the Bachelor of Science (Electrical Engineering) has the distinction of being one of the first in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to have received Outcome Based Level II accreditation status by the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). Likewise, the various BS computing programs are regularly accredited with the National Computing Education and Accreditation Council (NCEAC). With the input from these accreditation councils, and Industrial Advisory Boards, the curriculum and study plans are highly customized according to the national industrial needs. As such, graduates of the campus are well received by industry and hold prominent positions in national and multinational corporations.

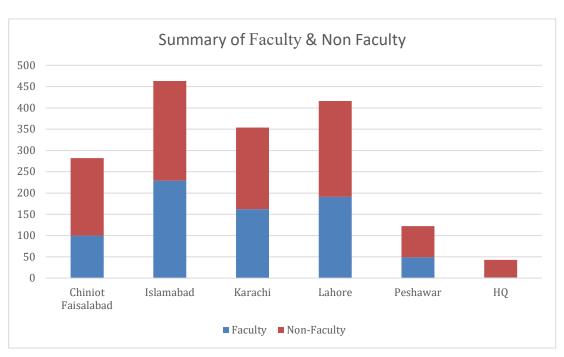
Chapter-1 Programs Offered and Campuses

DEGREE programs (Undergraduate, Graduate and Postgraduate programs)

S#	Degree program	Programs Offered and Campuses							
		CFD	ISB	KHI	LHR	PWR			
	Bachelor's degree programs								
1	Bachelor of Business Administration	√	V		V				
2	Bachelor of Science (Accounting & Finance)		V		V				
3	Bachelor of Science (Artificial Intelligence)	V	V	V		V			
4	Bachelor of Science (Business Analytics)	V	V	V	V				
5	Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering)				V				
6	Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)	V	V	V	V	V			
7	Bachelor of Science (Cyber Security)		V	√					
8	Bachelor of Science (Data Science)		V		V				
9	Bachelor of Science (Electrical Engineering)	V	V	V	V	V			
10	Bachelor of Science (Financial Technologies)		V	V	V				
11	Bachelor of Science (Software Engineering)	√	V	V	V	V			
	Master's degree programs								
1	Master of Business Administration	√	V		V				
2	Master of Science (Applied Linguistics)				V				
3	Master of Science (Artificial Intelligence)		V						
4	Master of Science (Business Analytics)		V	$\sqrt{}$	V				
5	Master of Science (Civil Engineering)				V				
6	Master of Science (Computer Networks & Security)		V	V					
7	Master of Science (Computer Science)	√	V	V	V	V			
8	Master of Science (Data Science)		V	V	V	V			
9	Master of Science (Electrical Engineering)	√	V	V	V				
10	Master of Science (Management Sciences)		V						

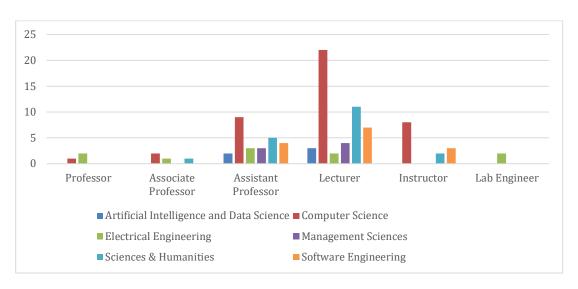
Chapter-2 Faculty and Staff Summary

Category	Chiniot Faisalabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	HQ	Total
Faculty	97	278	177	205		52	809
Non-Faculty	193	242	193	246	40	66	980
Total staff	290	520	370	451	40	118	1789



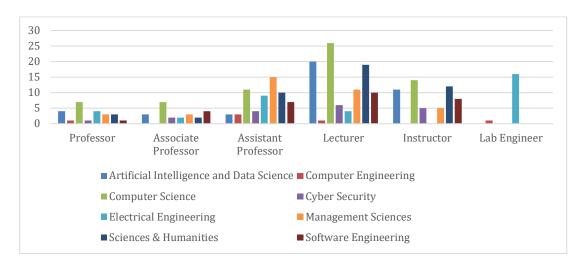
Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus

Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Instructor	Lab Engineer	Total
Artificial Intelligence and Data Science			2	3			5
Computer Science	1	2	9	22	8		42
Electrical Engineering	2	1	3	2		2	10
Management Sciences			3	4			7
Sciences & Humanities		1	5	11	2		19
Software Engineering			4	7	3		14
Total	3	4	26	49	13	2	97



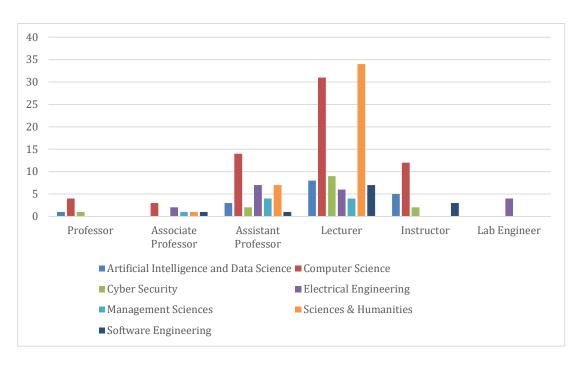
Islamabad Campus

Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Instructor	Lab Engineer	Total
Artificial Intelligence and Data Science	4	3	3	20	11		41
Computer Engineering	1		3	1		1	6
Computer Science	7	7	11	26	14		65
Cyber Security	1	2	4	6	5		18
Electrical Engineering	4	2	9	4		16	35
Management Sciences	3	3	15	11	5		37
Sciences & Humanities	3	2	10	19	12		46
Software Engineering	1	4	7	10	8		30
Total	24	23	62	97	55	17	278



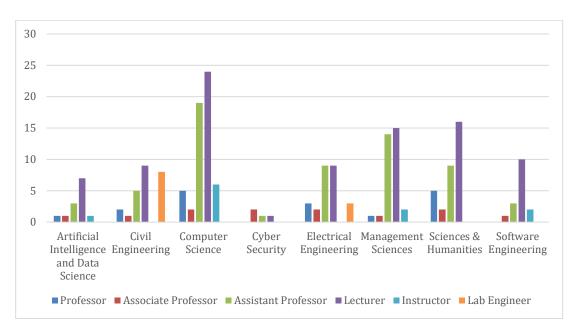
Karachi Campus

Department	Professor		Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Instructor	Lab Engineer	Total
Artificial Intelligence and Data Science	1		3	8	5		17
Computer Science	4	3	14	31	12		64
Cyber Security	1		2	9	2		14
Electrical Engineering		2	7	6		4	19
Management Sciences		1	4	4			9
Sciences & Humanities		1	7	34			42
Software Engineering		1	1	7	3		12
Total	6	8	38	99	22	4	177



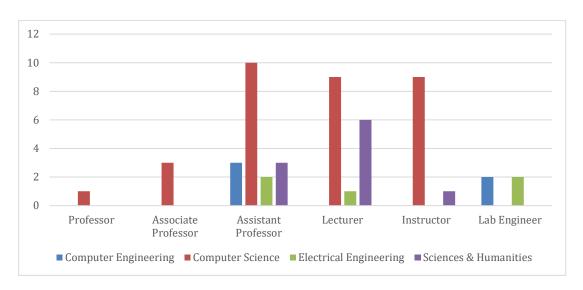
Lahore Campus

Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Instructor	Lab Engineer	Total
Artificial Intelligence and Data Science	1	1	3	7	1	C	13
Civil Engineering	2	1	5	9		8	25
Computer Science	5	2	19	24	6		56
Cyber Security		2	1	1			4
Electrical Engineering	3	2	9	9		3	26
Management Sciences	1	1	14	15	2		33
Sciences & Humanities	5	2	9	16			32
Software Engineering		1	3	10	2		16
Total	17	12	63	91	11	11	205



Peshawar Campus

Department	Professor	1 IBBO CIATO	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Instructor	Lab Engineer	Total
Computer Engineering			3			2	5
Computer Science	1	3	10	9	9		32
Electrical Engineering			2	1		2	5
Sciences & Humanities			3	6	1		10
Total	1	3	18	16	10	4	52



Chapter-3 Students' Profile

Applications Statistics (Discipline Wise)

		BBA	BS(AF)	BS(AI)	BS(BA)	BS(CS)	BS(CV)	BS(CYS)	BS(DS)	BS(EE)	BS(FT)	BS(SE)	Total
CFD	Applicants	5		23	4	111				2		37	182
CFD	Offers	3		13	3	17				2		5	43
ISB	Applicants	27	15	235	9	887		82	36	49	12	250	1602
130	Offers	17	11	4	4	34		5	4	7	7	8	101
KHI	Applicants			32	1	372		10		7	2	79	503
КПІ	Offers			1		30		2		8	2	1	44
LHR	Applicants	23	8		10	1145	13		72	21	5	198	1495
LIIK	Offers	13	5		6	46	6		9	10	3	4	102
PWR	Applicants			4		10				2		9	25
PWK	Offers					7						5	12
	Total Applicants	55	23	294	24	2525	13	92	108	81	19	573	3807
	Total Offers	33	16	18	13	134	6	7	13	27	12	23	302

Graduation Summary

		BBA	BS (AF)	BS (AI)	BS (BA)	BS (CS)	BS (CV)	BS (CY)	BS (DS)	BS (EE)	BS (FT)	BS (SE)	G. Total
	Karachi	12	-	32	-	577	-	29	-	87	=	144	881
	Lahore	90	41	-	=	428	82	-	25	127	=	62	855
2023-24	Islamabad	107	63	100	=	479	-	52	43	76	=	117	1037
	Peshawar	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	17	=	18	124
	Faisalabad	44	-	-	=	316	-	-	-	71	=	102	533
	G. Total	253	104	132		1889	82	81	68	378		443	3430
		MBA	MBA (1.5)	MS (AF)	MS (CNS)	MS (CS)	MS (CV)	MS (DS)	MS (EE)	MS (Ling)	MS (MG)	MS(Math)	G. Total
	Karachi	-	-	-	18	39	-	59	1	-	-	-	117
	Lahore	53	-	-	-	22	39	21	-	14	-	13	162
2023-24	Islamabad	26	-	-	18	15	-	26	12	-	4	0	101
	Peshawar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
	Faisalabad	2	-	-	-	14	-	-	2	-	-	-	18
	G. Total	81	-	-	36	90	39	108	15	14	4	13	400
		MS (SE)	MS (SPM)	MS (AI)	MS (BA)	PhD (CS)	PhD (EE)	PhD (Math)	PhD (MG)	PhD (MS)	PhD (SE)	PhD (CV)	G. Total
	Karachi	=	40	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	=	-	44
	Lahore	=	18	-	55	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	75
2023-24	Islamabad	15	0	24	16	3	2	-	3	-	2	-	65
	Peshawar	-	-	-	-	=	=	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Faisalabad	-	-	-	-	2	=	-	-	-	-	-	2
	G. Total	15	58	24	71	10	2	1	3	-	2	=	186

Chapter-4 Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC)

Overview

The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) at FAST-NUCES played a pivotal role in fostering a culture of research and innovation during the 2022-2023 academic year. ORIC provided comprehensive support to researchers, from project conception to commercialization.

To encourage and recognize research excellence, FAST-NUCES implemented various policies and initiatives. ORIC actively promoted awareness of emerging research trends, offered guidance to faculty members, and provided support during the proposal development and project execution stages. Under the mentorship of the Rector, the ORIC team successfully facilitated an increase in research collaborations with industry and other universities.

The diverse range of research and development activities undertaken at FAST-NUCES during the 2022-2023 academic year aimed to inspire faculty and students to actively participate in the university's research endeavours. By engaging in research initiatives, students and faculty contributed to the advancement of knowledge and contributed to the university's overall success.

Vision

The vision of ORIC is to promote research and innovation in the local context.

Mission

To take Pakistan forward by continuously improving quality of research, building partnerships with the industry, and being able to capitalize on outcomes that result from research and development activities.

Functions

- Encourage pragmatic research in the context of Pakistan's socio-economic needs
- Identify and inform the faculty members about research opportunities
- Facilitate joint research ventures and academic collaborations
- Promote publication of research work being conducted in the University
- Assist faculty in acquiring funds from international and national funding agencies
- Promote entrepreneurship, technology transfer and commercialization activities that support both local and national economies
- Commercialize research in collaboration with industry
- Arrange awareness seminars, symposia and workshops for the benefit of faculty and students

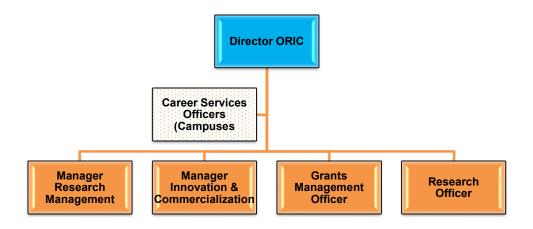
Services

- Educate faculty about university research policy and process grant requests
- Develop, maintain, and communicate pre and post-award administrative procedures for externally sponsored projects
- Support faculty regarding contracts, progress reports, and other sponsor grants actions
- Connect faculty and students with prospective industrial partners
- Assist students, faculty and alumnus in pursuit of technological or social innovations
- Mentor the promising start-ups during the initial period when they are most susceptible
- Assist in patent filing and licensing
- Keep web and social media presence to share the latest research, scholarship, and entrepreneurial opportunities

ORIC Team

Name	Designation
Dr. M. Asif Naeem	Director ORIC
Engr. M. Aatif Saif Khan	Manager Research Management
Mr. Rana Ayaz	Manager Innovation & Commercialization
Ms. Sayeda Sadia Batool	Grants Management Officer
Ms. Maryam Mehtab	Research Officer
Ms. Aysha Shafiq	Assistant Manager (Career Services, Chiniot Faisalabad Campus)
Ms. Iram Arshad	Assistant Manager (Career Services, Islamabad Campus)
Ms. Aysha Siddiqui	Assistant Manager (Career Services, Karachi Campus)
Mr. Bashir Muhammad	Manager (Career Services, Lahore Campus)
Mr. Riaz Nawab	Officer (Career Services, Peshawar Campus)

Organogram



Accomplishments

Noteworthy achievements of our department include:

- The ORIC has submitted the HEC's Annual Score Card and anticipated to improve its ranking from "Y" to 'X'. HEC's Performance Evaluation comprises of exhaustive parameters based on an institution's efforts towards gaining higher scores under Human Resecure, Research Management, Collaborations, Innovation & Commercialization.
- To meet the accreditation and ranking standards set by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), ORIC implemented a series of strategic policies designed to streamline various research processes. These policies facilitated the efficient management of extramural funding, research rewards, research ethics, and intramural research funding through the Faculty Research Support Grant, catering to both early-career and experienced researchers. Additionally, ORIC introduced guidelines for international and domestic travel grants, in-kind research support, and technical entrepreneurship initiatives for faculty and Final Year Projects (FYPs). Policies on plagiarism and research integrity were also reinforced to uphold high standards of academic honesty and quality.

These comprehensive measures significantly enhanced the research and development landscape at the university, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and excellence in all research activities.

- ORIC consistently educated faculty members about emerging research opportunities, resulting in the submission of over 7 research proposals for external funding during the 2023-2024 period. This achievement is particularly notable given the challenging funding environment, as new grant opportunities during this time were suspended at the funding agencies end due to shortage of funds.
- Fourteen NRPUs were secured in the period 2023 2024.
- To incentivize and acknowledge outstanding research publications, faculty received research rewards exceeding Rs. 17.14 million during the period 2023-2024. This program has demonstrably led to an increase in the number of high-quality faculty impact factor publications during the reported period.
- Our campuses have hosted over 440 capacity-building activities for faculty, staff, and students. These initiatives have provided valuable opportunities for professional development and networking, further enhancing the expertise of them.

Campus Name	Financial Year 2023-2024
CFD	48
ISB	285
KHI	57
LHR	43
PWR	7
Total	440

• The portfolio of ORIC extramural funding expands to have a lab affiliated with each of the four National Centers in Emerging Technologies funded by the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP): National Center of Artificial Intelligence, National Center of Big Data & Cloud Computing, National Center of Robotics & Automation,

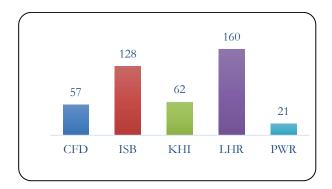
- and National Center of Cyber Security. These projects have developed prototypes that are being pitched to the investors for product licensing and commercialization.
- The NUCES encourages international collaborative research. The faculty researchers are executing European Union's ERASMUS projects.
- A host of research projects with defence and commercial verticals are also being executed
- In 2023-2024, under the ORIC umbrella, NUCES Successfully organized eight international conferences and workshops viz: ICET23, ICIT23. We have announced the ICETST24 and ICIT 2024 at Karachi and CFD campuses respectively with several other exciting events in the pipeline. These upcoming conferences promise to bring together experts and thought leaders from various fields to foster innovation, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas.
- We maintain an incessant social media presence, actively sharing a wide range of local and international opportunities, including emerging research, entrepreneurship, and placement prospects for our faculty and students. By leveraging our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/FASTNUORIC/, we effortlessly disseminate information about these opportunities, ensuring that our audience is well-informed and connected to a wealth of exciting prospects at the click of a mouse.
- The university actively facilitates the strengthening of academia-industry collaborations through meetings, MOUs, and consultancy agreements aimed at addressing industry challenges. Notable partnerships include engagements with NESCOM, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiative, M-Labs, Transsion Techno Electronics, Siemens Pakistan Engineering Co. Ltd and Elixir Technology among others.
- In an effort to enhance the research capabilities of faculty members, the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) has introduced intramural funding through the Faculty Research Support Grant (FRSG) program. This year, 30 projects (worth Rs million 38.685) were sponsored under the FRSG initiative.
- This year 45 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with a diverse range of national and international universities, as well as industrial organizations. These MoUs were strategically crafted to foster collaborations between academia and industry, aiming to promote knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, and mutually beneficial partnerships. Through these collaborative efforts, we have been able to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating innovation and creating avenues for impactful research outcomes.
- This year ORIC has developed the NUCES University Research Portfolio to showcase the university research spectrum and achievements at both national and international level. It strengthens our capacity to engage with various funding bodies and facilitates collaborations, fostering opportunities to secure consultancy projects and further propel our research initiatives. The University Research Portfolio is uploaded on the ORIC website and can be accessed from URL https://www.nu.edu.pk/Oric/UniversityResearchProfile.
- As part of our commitment to foster an entrepreneurial culture within the university, faculty members are actively encouraged to establish research labs. To date, we have successfully commercialized 42 research labs across various campuses of NUCES. Further details regarding the projects and achievements of these research labs can be accessed through our official ORIC website at https://www.nu.edu.pk/Oric/OricResearchLabs. This platform serves as a gateway for national and international organizations to connect with relevant research labs for collaborative research and development initiatives. Such collaborations ultimately prove beneficial for the university and its stakeholders
- A new Chip design centre has been established at Islamabad campus with the collaboration of GS Microelectronics US Inc. The centre, named GF-Metrc, focuses

- primarily on Integrated Circuit (IC) design, research, training, and fostering innovation and commercialization, leveraging the partnership with GSME.
- ORIC is supporting its faculty members and researchers in establishing their technical start-ups, including providing support throughout the trademark and patent filing processes. Notably, recently a new Start up (iParahi) has achieved success in trademark registration. Additionally, the founder is actively engaged in the process of filing a patent application for his forthcoming product.

Chapter-5 Research & Development

Campus Wise information of Journal Articles and Conference Papers

	Journal Articles
Chiniot-Faisalabad	57
Islamabad	128
Karachi	62
Lahore	160
Peshawar	21
G. Total	428

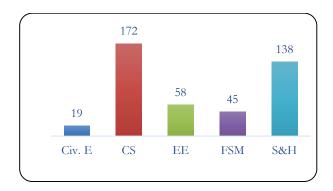


	Conference Papers
Chiniot-Faisalabad	5
Islamabad	42
Karachi	27
Lahore	29
Peshawar	11
G. Total	114

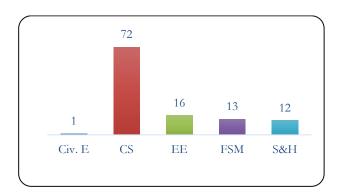


Department Wise information of Journal Articles and Conference Papers

	Journal Articles
Civil Engineering	19
Computer Science	172
Electrical Engineering	58
Management Sciences	45
Sciences & Humanities	138
G. Total	432

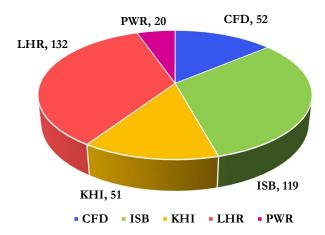


	Conference Papers
Civil Engineering	1
Computer Science	72
Electrical Engineering	16
Management Sciences	13
Sciences & Humanities	12
G. Total	114



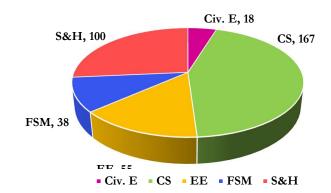
Campus wise impact factor publications

	Impact Factor Publications
Chiniot-Faisalabad	52
Islamabad	119
Karachi	51
Lahore	132
Peshawar	20
G. Total	374



Department wise impact factor publications

	Impact Factor Publications
Civil Engineering	18
Computer Science	167
Electrical Engineering	55
Management Sciences	38
Sciences & Humanities	100
G. Total	378



Chapter-6 Quality Assurance

FAST-NUCES 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.

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

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 OEC 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 feedback 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 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

Lahore Campus

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 IMSciences 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.

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

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.

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.

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Chapter-7 Financial Support to Students

A. Internal Sponsorships

1. Merit Scholarships for Bachelor Students

Merit scholarship is awarded to the **Top Three** position holders of each Examination Board. Scholarship is also offered to the top three position holders in the NU admission merit list of each campus. Students awarded merit Scholarship, 100% tuition fee for 8 regular semesters must maintain a CGPA of ≥ 3.00 in each semester.

2. Study Loan

Realizing that fees may not be affordable for some of the students, FAST-NU arranges financial assistance in the form of interest-free study loans for bright indigent students.

Rules for Internal Sponsorships:

- i. Internal sponsorships are available for Studying in regular semesters (spring and Fall). The following is the maximum number of semesters for which it can be availed.
 - Bachelor's 8 semesters
 Master's 4 semesters
 PhD 6 semesters
- ii. It shall not be available for repeat or withdrawn courses. This implies that it is available for studying a course only once.
- iii. It is suspended if the student's CGPA falls below the minimum specified to avoid warning and shall be restored upon getting out of warning by improvement in CGPA.
- iv. It shall be limited to tuition fee only.

B. External Sponsorships

1. Provincial Assistance

Awarded as per provincial laws and regulations.

- Sindh Government Endowment Board Scholarships
- Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) Scholarships
- Baluchistan Government Endowment Board Scholarship

2. HEC Scholarships for MS and PhD students

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) provides liberal scholarships to students desirous of studying for MS and PhD degrees at this university. The scholarship covers tuition fee, monthly stipend, and book allowance.

3. OSAF Scholarships

OSAF (Old Students Association of FAST) arranges financial assistance for those students who cannot afford to pay their full fee.

4. FANA Scholarship

FAST Alumni of North America provide funds for financial assistance for students who cannot afford to pay their full fee.

5. Ihsan Trust Financial Assistance

Ihsan Trust financial assistance for students who cannot afford to pay their full fee.

6. Other Scholarships

In addition to the above scholarships there are various community-based scholarships offered by various committees and foundations such as, Memon Community Scholarships, Bohra Community Scholarships, Agha Khan Foundation Scholarships, Ihsan Trust Sponsorship, General Refaqat Memorial Scholarship, etc.

Transport Facility

Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus

The University has arranged buses to operate between the campus and designated points in various localities of Faisalabad. This transport facility is available on self-finance basis.

Islamabad Campus

A few private transporters operate mini-buses between the campus and designated points in various localities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad on self-finance basis. The university also provides a limited number of buses to pick and drop students from selected points on self-finance basis.

Karachi Campus

The University arranges secure and safe, comfortable buses and coasters to pick students from selected points in different localities of Karachi. The transport facility is available on subsidized self-finance basis.

Peshawar Campus

The university provides limited transport facility to pick and drop students from selected points in Peshawar City to the campus. This facility is available on self-finance basis.

Chapter-8 Health Care Facilities

FAST-NUCES Administration is fully conscious of facilitating its employees within its resources. Employees Health Insurance Scheme was launched to provide the best health care facilities to the employees of NUCES. The Policy has proved enormously beneficial for the university employees and their families. Health Insurance Coverage is provided to all faculty members, officers and administrative staff of FAST-NUCES for cost effectiveness and timely medical facilitation.