

A question has been raised regarding admission requirements for students who have come through the Cambridge or Pearson systems, i.e., who have qualified the Cambridge International Assessment Examinations (CIAE) or Pearson Edexcel exams. Under normal circumstances, local students who intend to study in Pakistan are required to qualify in three compulsory subjects, Urdu, Islamiat and Pakistan Studies, while those who intend to study abroad are exempted from doing so. However, Covid-19 has created an unusual situation. Some students who might have intended to pursue higher education in other countries have had to change their plans and seek admission in Pakistan, but they are unable to appear in the required subjects because this year the results are based on past exams.

02. The following guidelines are issued in order to provide a temporary solution for such students and enable them to avoid unnecessary academic disruption:

- i. For the academic year 2020-21, universities may defer the condition of prior submission of IBCC equivalence certificate, or the prior qualification in compulsory subjects (Urdu, Islamiat, Pak Studies, etc.) as admission requirements for students holding SSC/HSSC from foreign examining bodies.
- ii. Instead, universities may grant provisional admission to such students, subject to confirmation if they qualify the needed subjects within one year from the date of enrolment in their respective universities or DAIs.
- iii. Universities may establish additional entrance requirement (e.g., of subjects studied) to determine the eligibility of applicants for admission to undergraduate degree programs in different disciplines, in accordance with the IBCC criteria (<http://www.ibcc.edu.pk/criteria.php>) as well as the requirements of professional councils.
- iv. In accordance with normal policy in admission matters, the completion of admission requirements in sub-para ii and ii shall be the sole responsibility of the student, and non-compliance with the requirements shall result in termination of the admission at the risk and cost of the student.