

## Director's Message

### Welcome to the Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research (DASR) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

The Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research play a central role in promoting and strengthening postgraduate and doctoral education at AIOU. Our primary responsibility is to facilitate, regulate, and ensure the quality of MPhil and PhD programs across all academic disciplines by the University.

DASR is responsible for managing the admission process of MPhil and PhD students in a transparent and merit-based manner. From the receipt of applications to final enrollment, the Directorate ensure that all procedures are carried out in accordance with the rules, regulations, and guidelines approved by statutory bodies and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

In addition to admissions, DASR maintains comprehensive academic records of all MPhil and PhD scholars throughout their research journey. This includes registration, academic notifications, synopsis approvals, progress monitoring, thesis submission, and assessment procedures. DASR also coordinates local and foreign thesis review to ensure high academic standards and international recognition of research output. We work closely with academic departments, supervisors, evaluators, and statutory bodies to facilitate the smooth and timely completion of research degrees.

To support capable and talented scholars, AIOU has launched a fully funded PhD scholarship program, enabling students to pursue their doctoral studies without financial burden. This program also provides opportunities for scholars to engage in teaching and academic activities, allowing them to gain valuable practical experience alongside their research journey.

At DASR, we are committed to promoting a research-oriented academic culture that encourages innovation, critical thinking, and scholarly excellence. Our aim is to support researchers and faculty members by providing an efficient academic environment that upholds integrity, quality, and global research standards.

I encourage prospective MPhil and PhD candidates to pursue their research aspirations at Allama Iqbal Open University and contribute meaningfully to knowledge creation and national development.

I wish all students and researchers a successful and rewarding academic journey.

**Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad**

Director

Direktorate of Advanced Studies and Research (DASR)  
Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad



## ***MERIT BASED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PHD PROGRAMS***



### *Eligibility Criteria:*

- Candidates must have a minimum CGPA of 3.5/4.0 or equivalent grades in their MS/MPhil degree.
- Applicants must submit a well-written research proposal, aligned with the relevant research areas required by the department/faculty concerned.
- While prior research experience or a publication record is preferred, it is not mandatory, allowing opportunities for fresh candidates who demonstrate exceptional potential and passion for teaching, learning and development.
- The candidate must be 35 years old or below on the closing date of the admission.

### ***Scholarship Structure:***

- The scholarship will cover the full cost of tuition fee for the PhD program.
- The scholar will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 80,000/- excluding fee) to support his/her living expenses.
- Additional amount of will be added annually in the running stipend as decided by the scholarship committee.
- The scholarship will be for 3 years (36 months), or upto thesis submission whichever earlier or extended upto maximum is 4 years (48 months), decided by the committee on the recommendation of the concerned supervisor and chairman of the department.
- The running stipend of 3<sup>rd</sup> year will be continued for the extended period.
- Scholars will have access to the university's research facilities, libraries, laboratories and online databases etc.
- The scholarship duration will be four years, subject to satisfactory progress reported by the Chairman/Chairperson of the concerned department and supervisor on bi-annual basis.
- The scholarship will be paid on the basis of monthly attendance.