



## Pakistan Medical Commission

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### POLICY DECISION

#### **DECISION on Request for Delay in Admission Dates by A Level Students due to delayed Result of A Levels & Equivalency Issue**

The Council considered requests from some A Level students who gave their exams in October and their results are due on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 and in some cases 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

The students have requested for following options;

- i) Extend the date of closure of admission applications to 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 to allow IBCC certificates to be issued for the re-sit exam results.
- ii) Allow use of computer generated result for applying for admissions and formation of merit subject to IBCC certificate being produced at the time of finalization of admission by colleges.

#### Background

There are two category of students;

- a) Those who elected to give the offered re-sit exam to improve their scores already given in the assessment based marking done in A Level due to Covid-19 restrictions. These students have their previously issued A Level results which they can use to apply for admission and therefore, wont be ousted from applying for admission if their result or IBCC equivalence is not available by the notified closing date of admissions for Public or Private Colleges.
- b) Those who did not take their equivalence subjects of Pak Studies, Islamiyat and Urdu in their school programs, and hence they gave these in October as assessed marking could not be given for subjects not opted for in school programs. Their results are expected on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Without these results they will not obtain an equivalence from IBCC hence they will not be eligible for admission to medical colleges.



IBCC meanwhile has indicated that its process for grant of equivalence requires availability of the original certificate which takes approximately 3-4 weeks after announcement of result. The certificates therefore, will become available in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February, 2021 and hence IBCC equivalence will become available at the earliest sometime in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February, 2021.

Currently admissions in Public Colleges have to be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2021. Whereas application submission for Private Colleges shuts down on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 and the merit lists will be issued on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Admissions in private colleges have to be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021.

#### Decision

The Council after having considered all the relevant facts and taking into consideration the interests of all students as well as the impact on admissions and the new school year has determined as follows;

1. These students elected to take a re-sit of their own choice and which was not a mandatory requirement. Many students have applied based on their assessed exam results as available to all A Level students. Students having taken the re-sit exam in essence are hoping to improve on their scores achieved in the assessed results already issued for A Level students. These students would not be adversely affected as they will have the right to apply for admissions like all other A Level students who did not sit the re-sit exams using their existing results. These students will also have the right to use their re-sit results, if better than their assessed results for admissions next year.
2. Students who in their O Levels or A Levels elected not to take the mandatory subjects required by IBCC for equivalence have taken these now at a later stage because they have now decided to try for admission to medical colleges. There is no reason for them to be treated differently to those who elected to take all the requisite subjects within the requisite time as this requirement for admission to medical college has at all times been publicly known. Granting any exemption would in fact prejudice those students who did take all the mandatory subjects and are now applying for admission. Furthermore, these students can also use their results for seeking admission next year.
3. IBCC is the national authority mandated to issue an equivalence of any foreign board exam with the recognized higher secondary education exams of Pakistan. Neither can Pakistan Medical Commission nor any college usurp the authority of the IBCC and undertake equivalence on its own. Any such equivalence done by the student, college or PMC without certification of IBCC would be further prejudicial to those students who have obtained IBCC equivalence as well as the F.Sc. students in terms of formation of merit.



4. The admissions schedule for medical colleges in Pakistan is based on the larger requirement of completing admissions latest by February, 2021 to enable classes to begin for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and ensure students are able to complete the mandatory curriculum which includes a minimum number of class hours. This will not be possible if admissions are delayed beyond February, 2021 and will cause severe prejudice to and adverse impact upon over 19,000 students who are admitted to medical colleges.
5. Schedules of foreign examining bodies are their independent domain and cannot be the determining factor in the admission schedules for colleges in Pakistan set by PMC which involves multiple considerations. Even otherwise as all the A Level students already have a uniform result issued for their A Levels no one shall be restricted from applying for admission at this time or deprived of the right to admission to medical college. Seeking to improve one's result in an HSSC exam cannot be therefore, the ground to delay admissions and adversely impact thousands of other students.

For the reasons stated the Council has determined that the Admission Schedule as already announced shall not be altered and no exemption is to be granted for equivalence or in terms of time for A Level students who have opted to take the A Level re-sit exam in an attempt to improve their announced result or complete the mandatory subjects for equivalence.

It is clarified that students can use their re-sit results or their later attempted mandatory subjects for seeking admission next year in medical college.



**Secretary**

Pakistan Medical Commission

