Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai,
Vice Chancellor,
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Islamabad.

Subject: Commencement of Forensic Studies at Masters Level in the Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad

The National Forensic Agency Project was launched by the Government of Pakistan to support the criminal justice administration system in the country and to improve the investigation carried out by police and law enforcement agencies. One of the key objectives of the project is to facilitate the establishment of a Center of Excellence on forensic studies in one of the leading universities of the country.

2. Keeping in view the federal character of the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad and well grounded availability of required infrastructure and faculty, NFSA project recommends that some program on forensic science studies be introduced in the University to increase the dissemination of this emerging discipline within the country. Such a program would help our young generation of students and in-service personnel of law enforcement agencies to acquaint themselves with new forensic concepts and methodologies as well as its practical and their application during their degree program preparing them to render services with a certain level of knowledge and experience.

3. In view of above, the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad may kindly look into the possibility of initially starting a degree program on forensic science at Master’s level with a view to extend it later to Ph.D, M.Phil and certificate programs in future to cater to demands from all kinds of levels. The NFSA project assures the Quaid-e-Azam University of its sincere support in this regard. A concept note is attached for your kind perusal.

With regards,

[Signature]

Syed Khalid Qureshi
Project Director,
CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION:

Forensic science plays an integral role in the criminal justice system. It supports law enforcement agencies in meeting the expectations of their Government and community, forensic science strives to connect the crime scene and judicial system through the development and delivery of impartial expert scientific opinion evidence. Forensic science can be used in almost any criminal case; however, investigation homicide, rape and arson are those then benefit the most from forensic science.

Introduction of forensic science studies in educational institutions of Pakistan will be beneficial to the new generation of students having the aptitude and desirous of joining this exciting and newly emerging subject in Pakistan. It will create new job opportunities and provide a clear career path towards specialization to the students undertaking such programs. Inter-alia qualified manpower will be available to the public and private sector in various fields as applications of forensic science are not limited to criminal law, and can include civil law, product liability, medical integrity, highway safety, environmental protection, consumer protection and national security.

Presently, many universities are providing courses/programs ranging from BSc. (hons), Masters, M.Phil and Ph.d in various subjects like Bio-chemistry, Bio-informatics, Physics and chemistry etc related to forensic science in one context or another. Availability of forensic studies program at a suitable level can provide a clear platform for dedicated forensic science studies for a career start. Similarly, the police forces and law enforcement agencies will have a growing demand in future for inducting forensic analysts/experts to make their investigations more effective, objective and scientific in nature rather than to rely on the existing obsolete methodology and technology.
OBJECTIVES:

The proposed objectives of this initiative are as follows:-

- To establish forensic science as a formal course of studies.
- To acquaint the students with international standards in forensic methodologies.
- To cope with increasing demands of forensic expertise in the current scenario.
- To widen the horizon of forensic science using information technology based knowledge and to bring about innovations through research.
- To enhance the job opportunities for the graduates in this respective field.

METHODOLOGY:

The Quaid-e-Azam University is a highly distinguished education institution with a federal character. Each year it has an intake of hundreds of students coming from all provinces and areas of Pakistan to take part in post-graduation studies. It also has the required infrastructure and faculty to start a degree program in forensic science studies.

The curriculum for this degree program can be designed and developed in consultation with distinguished foreign universities/institutes already imparting such courses/programs in various disciplines of forensics. To further encourage the students, the Quaid-e-Azam University may issue a Masters degree in forensic science to its students in collaboration with a foreign well reputed educational institute where students may go to complete their final semester and also pursue the practical implementation of the subject. This exposure and experience will strengthen the foundations of this discipline in the minds of the students. Scholarship programs and internship opportunities in public and private sectors can also be arranged once the program starts. It is expected that the forensic studies platform can be extended to Ph.D / M.Phil and certificate level programs at a later stage.
EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

The expected outputs are:

- A fresh batch of competent students in nearly three/four years time would be available to fill in the gap for forensic proficiency in the country.
- The initiative would open up the gateway for the introduction of forensics in other leading universities of Pakistan.
- This enterprise would assist the law enforcement agencies in inducting young people having forensic studies and ready for induction and pre-employment training in specialized fields and disciplines of forensics.
- Better employment opportunities.
- International recognition and accreditation of work.
- Enhancement of rule of law in the country

CONCLUSION:

The introduction of forensic science studies in a leading educational institution in Pakistan would not only provide a new and challenging alternative to the young generation of students in Pakistan but would also provide a impetus to the existing faculty members to re-engineer their current level of expertise to match the emerging demand of this subject. Similarly, due to availability of qualified manpower in forensic science, the law enforcement agencies and police forces would find it very difficult to ignore the need to carry out investigations on scientific basis and produce credible evidence before courts enabling them to carry out justice objectively and impartially. Resultantly, this would enhance rule of law in the country.