Initiatives Addressing SDG 1 at UPR: Targeting Admission of Underprivileged Students

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR), located in the challenging border region near India and the disputed Kashmir area, stands as a premier institution in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Pakistan. According to the AJK Policy Brief on SDG from 2018, approximately 24.9% of the AJK population faces multidimensional poverty.

UPR is firmly dedicated to inclusivity, ensuring that no deserving student is denied education due to financial limitations, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1. Our commitment to empowering underprivileged students is prominently communicated through admission notices on our official website and widespread media outreach.

To support this mission, the University offers various financial aid programs and scholarships, specifically tailored to assist students from the lowest income quintiles. Evidence of these initiatives can be found in the admission notice for the Fall, 2023 semester.



UPR admission advisement showing a list of scholarships for deserving students are marked by a red circle

A major portion of students at the University come from marginalized communities in AJK. Most of these students come from families living below the poverty line (*Extreme poverty), with incomes of less than \$2.15 per person per day. In the period from January to December 2022, the Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement (DSFA&UA) and the Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) analyzed student data, revealing that approximately 82.06 % of enrolled students belong to families living below the poverty line. For 2021, the enrolled studentsfrom underprivileged families were 78.1 %. In response, our university is committed to enhancing its financial aid program by establishing connections with the Government of Pakistan, Provincial Governments, international and local NGOs, as well as prominent philanthropists and diaspora, in alignment with SDG 1.

*Extreme poverty— defined as those who live on less than \$2.15 per person per day [1].

Reference

[1] https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview

Promoting Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) through Affordable Higher Education

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is committed to supporting students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring they have access to higher education in a dignified and affordable manner. This initiative aligns with the goals of Sustainable Development Goal 1 by addressing the affordability of education. UPR offers comparatively low admission fees in contrast to both public and private universities nationwide. Additionally, the institution provides accessible financial assistance programs, significantly aiding students from low-income families in pursuing higher education and advancing their professional aspirations. Figure 1 illustrates a comparative analysis of semesterly fee structures between UPR and other universities across the country.

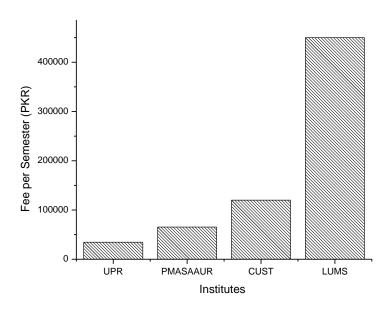


Figure 1: Fee Comparison of UPR and Other Universities in Pakistan

Abbreviations and references of Figure 1:

- University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) Annex A and B
- PMAS- Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan https://www.uaar.edu.pk/media/departments/treasurer/fee-220124.pdf
- Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST)
 https://cust.edu.pk/fee-structure/
- Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) https://admission.lums.edu.pk/node/8780

The UPR, considering local economic circumstances and the difficulties of natural and human-induced disasters such as the 2005 earthquake, has upheld its commitment to maintaining the lowest, subsidized tuition rates for all students. Since its establishment in 2012, the university has refrained from raising the fees listed in Table 1. Specifically, the tuition cost in USD has witnessed a notable 59.9 % decrease over the past decade. This distinctive aspect of our university, where fees remain unchanged despite the inflationary impact and broader economic shifts within the country, has played a pivotal role in ensuring the continued enrollment and successful graduation of the underprivileged segments of AJK's population. Annexes A and B illustrate the university's fee structure for 2014 and 2020.

Table 1: Fee Comparison of UPR in the Last 11 Years

Year	Fee (PKR)	% Increase	~Fee (USD)*
2012	34490	0	387
2013	34490	0	355
2014	34490	0	328
2015	34490	0	344
2016	34490	0	331
2017	34490	0	331
2018	34490	0	313
2019	34490	0	247
2020	34490	0	223
2021	34490	0	216
2022	34490	0	156
2023	34490	0	156

For USD to PKR conversion

^{*}https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/pakistan/exchange-rate-against-usd

HE UNIVERSITY OF POONCH RAWALAKOT

"Rawalakot" Dated: 29-10-2014



Council, Syndicate and Senate the Vice Chancellor has been pleased to sanctioned the Fee Structure as per details below:

Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics, Statistics, CS			1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester	5th Semester	6th Semester	7th Semester	8th Semester
T	10001	Admission Fee	5000							
2	10002	Registration Fee	1500							
3	20001	Security Fee (testandable)	5000							
* Sub Total (A)			11500							
3.	30001	Tuition Fee	15090	15090	16599	16599	18253.9	19258.9	20084.79	20084.79
1	40001	Sports Fee	500	500	550	550	605	605	665.5	665.5
2	40322	Library/Laboratory/IT Fee	1000	1000	1:00	1100	:710	1210	1331	1331
3	40003	Examination Fee	2000	2000	2200	2200	2420	2420	2662	2662
4	40004	Transcript Fee/Certificate Fee	500	500	550	550	605	605	665.5	665.5
5	40005	Magazine Fund	500	500	550	550	605	605	605.5	565.5
6	40006	Internet Charges	500	500	550	550	605	605	665.5	635.5
7	40007	Endowment Fund	1000	1000	1100	1100	1210	1210	1331	1331
8	40008	Transport Charges	900	900	990	990	1089	1089	1197.9	1197.9
9	40009	Field Trips/Study Tour	500	500	550	550	605	605	665.5	665.5
10	40010	Development Fund	500	500	550	550	605	605	665.5	665.5
11	50001	Thesis/Report			0		0		0	500
12	60001	Degree Fee			0		0		0	1000
			7900	7900	8690	8690	9559	9559	10514.9	12014.9
Sub Total (C)			34490	2,990	25289	25289	27817.9	27817.9	30599.69	32099.6

Rs. 15,000, additional charges for Self Finance

s will be effective from the admissions of Academic Session 2014-15.

(Karamat Ali Khan) Assistant Registrar

Secretary to the Vice Chancellor All Deans of Faculties All Directors All Charmen/Coordinators of the Departments Audit Office Accounts Officer
Assistant Registrar Meetings
Master File

All fee paid once, are not refundable except the security deposits.

The University reserved the right to make amendment(s) in the fee structure.

Fee is subject to minimum 10% annual increase.

Students/parents/guardians must realize that payment of fee is a commitment for the entire period of study. Any request for concession will not be enteriamed.



UNIVERSITY OF POONCH RAWALAKOT

General Administration

Phone No. 0092-5824-960053, Fax No. 0092-5824-960052, Email: registrar@upr.edu.pk , URL: www.upr.edu.pk

No. UPR/Fin-206 (Vol-03)/2,636L/2020

Dated: 12-10-2020

ffice Order

on the recommendations of Fee & Fund Committee and inanticipation to the approval of Academic Council, Syndicate and Senate, the Vice-Chancellor has been pleased to sanction the revised fee structure as per detail below:

BS Science Group Chomistry, Physics, Botany, Mathematics, Zoology, Statistics, BS(CS), Microbiology and Biotechnology			11 Semester	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester	4th Semester	5th Semester	6th Semester	7th Semester	8th Semester
1	10001	Admission Fee	5000							
2	10002	Registration Fee	1500							
3	20001	Security Fee	5000							
*Sub Total (A)		11500								
1	30001	Tuition Fee	15090	15090	16599	16599	18259	18259	20085	20085
2	40001	Sports Fee	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
3	40002	Library/Laboratory/IT Fee	1000	1000	1100	1100	1210	1210	1331	1331
4	40003	Examination Fee	2000	2000	2200	2200	2420	2420	2662	2662
5	40004	Transcript Fee/Certificate Fee	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
6	40005	Magazine Fund	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
7	40006	Internel Charges	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
8	40007	Endowment Fund	1000	1000	1100	1100	1210	1210	1331	1331
9	40008	Transport Charges	900	900	990	990	1089	1089	1197	1197
10	40009	Field Trips/Study Tour	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
11	40010	Development Fund	500	500	550	550	605	605	666	666
12	50001	Thesis/Report	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	500
13	60001	Degree Fee	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	1000
Sub Total (C)			7900	7900	8690	8690	9559	9559	10515	12015
Grand Total (A+B+C)			34490	22990	25289	25289	27818	27818	30602	32102

The revised fee structure for BS Microbiology & Biotechnology will be effective from the Admissions Fall-2020 and all other disciplines will be effective from session 2014-15.

(Authority: Fin-206, Vol-03, Para-42/N)

Copy to:

- Secretary to the vice chancellor
- 2. All Deans of the Faculties
- The Controller of Examinations
- 4. The Treasurer
- The Accounts Officer
- 6. The Assistant Registrar (Meetings)
 - Master File

Note:

- All fee paid once, are not refundable except the security deposits.
- . The University reserved the rights to make amendment(s) in the Fee Structure.
- Fee is subject to minimum 10% annual increase.
- Students / Parents / Guardians must realize that payment of fee is a commitment for the entire period of study. Any request for concession will not be entertained.