

PhD Studentships - COPE-BP Programme

We are seeking highly motivated and goal-oriented candidates for fully funded PhD Studentships. The PhD will focus on cardiovascular health research, with an emphasis on improving cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention and management strategies in low-resource settings. This PhD is embedded within the COPE-BP (*Community-Pharmacies managing hypertension: intervention development and Evaluation in Bangladesh and Pakistan*) project, an NIHR-funded global health programme.

The primary supervisors will be located at Khyber Medical University. Co-supervision support from the University of York will be provided as required. The first year will consist of coursework, followed by three years dedicated to research. These PhD studentships are funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR-UK). This funding covers full tuition fees for PhD students at Khyber Medical University, Pakistan. The studentships are full-time and primarily based at KMU, Peshawar. Each student will receive a monthly stipend of PKR 100,000/- for a duration of four years.

Proposed areas for the doctoral positions: Hypertension or CVD management; cost-effectiveness or sustainability/systems integration of CVD prevention programmes in low-resource settings; health inequalities and access to hypertension care; determinants of cardiovascular health.

Eligibility

- Must have at least a Master's/MPhil degree in a relevant field such as public health, epidemiology, global health, or health sciences from HEC/PMDC recognised HEI/DAI.

Admission Process

- Each candidate shall make an application for admission to the PhD program on the prescribed form, along with documents specified in the Form. The Form can be downloaded from the link oric.kmu.edu.pk or received from the ORIC-KMU office in Peshawar. The application form with all supported documents must be submitted as a single PDF file at copebp.kmu.phd@gmail.com (see below for details of documents required).
- The candidates will be required to pass a screening test. The screening test will consist of MCQs based on analytical reasoning (research) [70%], English [15%], and mathematics [15%].
- The shortlisted candidates based on the test score will be invited to submit a research proposal on the topic that the candidate may like to pursue for his/her doctoral thesis. The proposal must reflect the background, rationale, research question & objectives, proposed methodology and expected outcomes of the research.
- After a thorough review, the selection committee will shortlist the top proposals for an interview. The interview panel will include members from KMU and University of York, UK. (Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview).

Admission process:

Advertisement: 9 January 2026

Deadline for applications: 25 January 2026

Screening test: First week of February 2026 (candidates will be informed via email regarding the confirmed date)

Notification of qualified candidates for proposal submission via email: 10 February 2026

Deadline for submission of proposals in the specified format/template: 25 February 2026

Notification of shortlisted candidates for the interview (KMU and York Panel): TBD

Interview of the shortlisted candidates: TBD

Notification of the qualified candidates and admission offer: TBD

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED AS A SINGLE PDF FILE

1. Completed application form (with photograph)
2. Updated CV
3. SSC, HSSC, Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, transcripts and any other relevant qualifications.
4. Scanned copy of Computerized National ID card.

NB: All documents mentioned above must be submitted to the above-mentioned email ID as a *single PDF file*. Missing information/documents will lead to a drop out from the admission process.