PhD Psychology

Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2023

Fall 2019 – Fall 2022

Department of Behavioural Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S³H)
National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Prepared by:

Dr. Sumara Masood Ul Hassan, Asst. Professor, Department of Behavioural Sciences, S3H
Dr. Sumbal Nawaz, Asst. Professor, Department of Behavioural Sciences, S3H
Dr. Tamkeen Ashraf, Associate Professor, Department of Behavioural Sciences, S3H

Reviewed by:

Dr. Ayesha Nazuk, Asst. Professor & Director LQEC, S3H

Assessed by:

Dr. Gulnaz Zahid, HoD Behavioural Sciences
Dr. Salma Siddiqui, Dean S3H
Dr. Sajida Naz, Asst. Professor, Department of Behavioural Sciences, FJWU

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Self-Assessment Report has been prepared as per requirements of Higher Education Commission (HEC) and NUST Quality Assurance (QA) Directorate. The program was evaluated across 8 criterions; which are (1) Program Mission, Objectives and Outcomes, (2) Curriculum Design and Organization, (3) Laboratories and Computing Facilities, (4) Student Support and Advising, (5) Process Control, (6) Faculty, (7) Institutional Facilities and (8) Institutional Support. The indicators and assessment tool developed by HEC and QEC were used to evaluate the program across each criterion. This review provides an in-depth outline of the PhD program in Psychology of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Humanities. The PhD Psychology program's self-assessment exercise is carried out for two academic years Fall 2019 – Fall 2022.

Criteria 1: The PhD program mission, objectives, and outcomes are well documented and are aligned with the School mission. For instance, the program aims to promote critical and scholarly thinking, to encourage students to extend the current scholarly literature on indigenous, social and psychological problems. Furthermore, the aim is to empower PhD research students to conduct research that contributes to knowledge, intervention, social dialogue, and policy making. These aims are in alignment with the objectives of School of Social Sciences and with the broader NUST mission statement. The objectives and outcomes are measured and assessed periodically. The evaluation tools for measuring program objectives and outcomes are: Teacher's Feedback (twice a semester), Student's Course Evaluation (once a Semester), Class Audit Report (once a Semester by the HoD), Faculty Course Overview Report (once a Semester by an individual faculty member), and Survey of Graduating Students (Once a year by graduating students). One survey reported in Criteria 1 is based on the teacher's survey results, which indicated that students' overall satisfaction rate was "excellent", ranging from 82 to 96%. These surveys are further discussed during informal meetings with students and in faculty meetings. Outcomes of teaching activities are also reviewed in departmental meetings and appropriate changes are made whenever needed.

Criteria 2: One of the major strengths of the PhD program is the department's commitment to student learning, and their professional growth and development. The current program structure and methodology is well suited for a PhD level program in general, and is appropriate to meet these aforementioned PhD Psychology program objectives. More specifically, a diverse range of teaching methodology is used to promote critical and analytical thinking, such as discussions, case studies, presentations, writing critical review papers and developing research proposals at PhD level in various courses.

Criteria 3: The available IT resource-base is limited and available computing resources at S3H are not adequate as per program requirements and students' strength. There is one designated lab for all PhD students in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H), which is not enough to meet the needs of PhD psychology students who need separate lab for their subject specific requirements. The labs are equipped with appropriate research-related software for data analysis, such as AMOS, and NVivo, however, more subject specific licensed software are required.

Criteria 4: PhD students have adequate support to complete their program in a timely manner. Their progress is regularly monitored and students are required to submit six monthly progress reports. PhD students regularly meet with their respected supervisors, and their GEC members, to discuss their research

progress. During these meetings, recommendations are also made by supervisors and GEC members to refine their research ideas, rationale, and methodology.

Criteria 5: The admissions, registration and teaching processes are working well. Moreover, they are periodically reviewed, evaluated and continuously improved upon.

Criteria 6: Currently, there is no faculty development program related to the areas of specialization of each faculty or department. Only a few scholarships are available at NUST that are primarily for the Engineering faculty while there is no specific grants/scholarships available for the Social Sciences faculty. The department is committed to student learning and professional growth, through organizing regular seminars and workshops. As such, the department has conducted 20 seminars/workshops/training programs in the last 2 years.

Criteria 7: The library in NUST has been centralized and it is in process of expanding. Currently the library has few books relevant to Psychology and there is a dire need to increase books for the Department of Behavioural Sciences. Also, journal subscription in the fields of Psychology and more specifically in Clinical Psychology needs to revised to include high impact factor journals.

Criteria 8: The current salary structure offered to the faculty is not at par with the highly competitive local market hence attracting and retaining faculty has always been a challenge for the school. The financial resources available to S3H to maintain its library, laboratories and other infrastructure are not adequate. Currently there are no research assistants at the Department of Behavioural Sciences. The financial resources available to S3H to maintain Computer labs and other infrastructure are not adequate.