

HEC Verification Made Mandatory for Lawyers' Enrollment and License Renewal

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The Punjab Bar Council has made verification of educational credentials by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) mandatory for the enrollment of advocates and the issuance and renewal of legal practice licenses. The decision was approved during the General House meeting held on June 13, 2026, and has been formally notified. According to the notification, candidates seeking fresh enrollment as advocates in lower courts must submit a copy of their LL.B degree duly attested by HEC. No applicant will be enrolled without completing this requirement. The Council has further clarified that the licenses of already registered lawyers will not be renewed unless their educational documents are verified by HEC. Verification has also been made compulsory for enrollment as an Advocate of the High Court. No license for legal practice will be issued without fulfillment of the verification process.

For candidates holding foreign LL.B degrees or qualifications obtained through external law programs, submission of an HEC Equivalence Certificate has been declared mandatory. The renewal of licenses and enrollment in the High Court for such lawyers will remain suspended until the required equivalence certificate is provided.

Punjab Bar Council stated that the enrollment and licensing of advocates is an important legal and constitutional responsibility. The Council emphasized that transparency, integrity, and merit must be ensured in the process. The General House unanimously approved the decision to strengthen professional standards and maintain the credibility of the legal profession. The Secretary of the Punjab Bar Council has directed all concerned officers and staff to ensure strict compliance with the notification. Any negligence or violation of the instructions will result in disciplinary action against the responsible officials.

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