

## British Council International Education Services Webinar – Question/Answers

### Market sentiments in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka towards the UK in light of Covid-19 held on 06 May 2020

Q - This may be coming up in the presentation but is there a feel for how attractive a Jan start would be?

A - The preference is to stick to a September 2020 start. However, given the situation in both UK and Sri Lanka if differing the preference of many students and parents is January 2021.

Q - There has been various and increasingly positive communications around British HE TNE education in Pakistan? Is this a genuine feeling and will it (you think) lead to a shift in attitudes towards TNE in the short and long term. i.e. IFY, UG and PG programmes. Thank you

A - There has been an increase interest in TNE education, as Pakistan is the 4th largest recipient of UK TNE. The HEC announced its Foreign Collaboration Policy, clearly highlighting all SOPs universities and their local partners in Pakistan should adhere to. Since there is a legal backing by HEC now, we expect a lot of interest soon

Q- What is meant by 'relaxation of the fee'?

A - If UK HEIs are planning to offer any discounts to students.

Q- Have CAIE board schools in Pakistan been given a deadline to decide if they will issue predicted grades or proceed with exams later?

A - They haven't, but Uzma Yousaf Country Director Cambridge said that schools should decide as soon as possible.

Q- Is there any likelihood that students in Bangladesh will take any local exams this summer.

A - Under the circumstances, the probable date to start the HSC and equivalent exams might be 31 May but nothing can be assured. Ministry of Education is closely looking at situation and announce the decision soon.

Q- which IELTS alternative tests are most accessible in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka in case IELTS centres are not open and cannot cope with demand after they open? Pearson, Password, Duolingo, Language Cert B2 Oxford International etc?

A - BUILA will work with the BC to get this and pop onto our website - we are about to send out the link today to a place where we are keeping all these updates and recordings.



Q - How is the appetite for online learning in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal? Is it similar across these countries?

A – Hi, Pre-Covid19 it was not a popular delivery model. However, with the current situation the government is looking to introduce this more widely especially amongst state universities as well in Sri Lanka. Hope this helps.

Q - Any updates on potential exam dates in Nepal for the final year school and university students?

A - All final year school and university exams in Nepal have been postponed indefinitely. Government has not reviewed the decision yet.

Q - TNE opportunities in Nepal - can you let us know if there are any subject areas that the universities prefer?

A - The most popular subject areas right now are Business and management studies and IT and Computer sciences. There is high interest in hospitality and culinary studies too

Q - What is the feedback towards a blended learning model? A couple of months online, followed by on-campus education.

A - Hi, Feedback received from parents and students show that they would prefer a blended learning model as opposed to a completely online delivery.