

NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

ISLAMABAD



SOP – Co-Authoring Research Articles in  
National and International Journals

14 January' 2016

## SOP : Co-Authoring Research Articles at National Defence University, Islamabad

1. **General** In order to encourage original research among the faculty and research students, the following SOP has been promulgated:-

a. **Research Publications by MPhil Scholars:**

Research publication(s) by a research student is the product of the student's efforts spanning over a period of minimum six month. Therefore, most of research effort e.g. data collection etc is done wholly by the student. Therefore very little space is left for the faculty member(s) to be part of such research publication. The following guideline may be followed for co-authoring research publications based on MPhil thesis.

- (1) All MPhil students should be encouraged to make solo publications and faculty members / supervisor should prefer not to become co-authors, especially those from the same department.
- (2) However, in exceptional circumstances, if the student wants to recognize the support/guidance of his/her supervisor, a written request for including his/her name as co-author, will have to be made by the student. The supervisor may ensure plagiarism check, before giving written consent or choosing to decline the offer.
- (3) Supervisor must always exercise his / her honest judgment whether his/her research contribution/effort in the article is sufficient enough to justify being a co-author.
- (4) The first author in the research article based on the thesis work must always be the research student.
- (5) There is hardly any room for any other faculty member to be a co-author in the same research article; which is extracted from student's research work of just over six months period only. In case the thesis work was part of a bigger research project, spanning over a year or more, actual research contributors could become co-authors.
- (6) However, the contribution by each co-author, such as literature review, data collection, analysis, critique, extraction of conclusion etc, must be clearly documented / authenticated by the Dean at the beginning, with the student's consent. It is most undesirable to force the research student for including one or more co-authors, who have not contributed sufficiently to justify the same.
- (7) In no way, a faculty member (even the supervisor) should become the first author, because the thesis research is sole responsibility of the student being integral requirement of his/her degree.

b. **Research Publications by PhD Scholars**

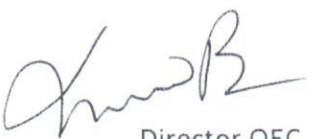
PhD is a minimum of 03 x year research assignment for pushing the frontier of knowledge in a chosen discipline. Furthermore, it demands soaking in very high ethnical standards ingrained in the community of scholars and intellectuals. The following parameters must be followed for co-authoring research publications with PhD scholars:-

- (1) All PhD students should be encouraged to make solo publications and faculty members / supervisor should prefer not to become co-authors.

- (2) Supervisor may become the second author, provided a written voluntary request is made by the scholar to this effect and consented by the supervisor after plagiarism check. Supervisor should document his/her part of the contribution approved by the Dean.
- (3) Supervisor must always exercise his / her honest judgment whether his/her research contribution/effort in the article is sufficient enough to justify being a co-author.
- (4) The research scholar will always be the first author of the publication(s) based on the thesis work.
- (5) Normally, there is hardly any room for the third and subsequent author in a research article published by a PhD scholar. In special circumstances, when research topic is part of a bigger research project having a number of researchers working on it, the research contribution in the article by each author must be documented and approved by the Dean. The scholar being the first author, the order of co-authors should be according to their research contributions.
- (6) In no way, a faculty member (even the supervisor) should become the first author because the thesis research is sole responsibility of the student being integral requirement of his/her degree.

2. This SOP comes into force at once after approval by the President NDU.

14 Jan' 2016

  
Director QEC  
(Prof Dr. Mohammad Riaz)