

**Beaconhouse National University**

13-KM Off Thokar Niazbeg, Raiwind Road, Lahore 53700, Pakistan

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Policy on Aquatic Ecosystem Protection

Preamble:

Water bodies, whether permanent or seasonal, play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing resilience to climate change. Although Beaconhouse National University (BNU) is located on land without significant natural aquatic features, and within a region where large water bodies are scarce, BNU affirms its commitment to the protection and sustainable management of all aquatic ecosystems within its jurisdiction. BNU is dedicated to preserving any existing or potential water features on campus and actively supports broader environmental efforts aimed at conserving aquatic resources in the region.

Policy Statement:

BNU shall adopt a precautionary, science-based approach to protecting freshwater ecosystems, including ponds, streams, rainwater retention zones, and associated riparian habitats.

Policy Objectives:

- Prevent degradation of any aquatic ecosystems within or adjacent to BNU premises.
- Monitor water quality and biotic integrity to track ecosystem health over time.
- Promote research and teaching related to freshwater ecology and wetland restoration.

Protective Measures:

- Design all landscape and construction projects to avoid hydrological disruption or wetland encroachment.
- Prohibit the release of untreated runoff, chemicals, or waste into natural or artificial water bodies.



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- Establish a vegetative buffer zone (minimum 10 meters) around any on-campus aquatic features.

Academic Integration:

- Support interdisciplinary fieldwork, data collection, and ecological modeling in aquatic environments.
- Facilitate student research on water quality, aquatic invertebrates, migratory birds, and hydrological cycles.

Accountability & Oversight:

- Assign the Sustainability Committee with responsibility for ecosystem monitoring, with support from biology and environmental science faculty.
- Conduct quarterly water testing and aquatic habitat surveys.
- Collaborate with local authorities and NGOs on joint watershed protection efforts.

This policy reaffirms BNU's commitment to freshwater stewardship as a critical aspect of climate resilience and environmental justice.