

DR. FAWAD SADIQ

Quality Assurance & Compliance Leader | Strategy Consultant | Policy & Rankings Advisor

INQAAHE Board Director | ENQA International Advisory Board Member | ISO 9001 & ISO 21001 Lead Auditor

Islamabad, Pakistan | fawadsadiq2018@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/fawadsadiq | Contact: +92-3312548880/+92-3345531198

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Quality assurance and compliance professional with over 15 years of hands-on experience spanning higher education, management consulting, IT operations, and large-scale project management. Holds a PhD in Engineering Management from NUST and dual ISO lead auditor certifications (ISO 9001 QMS and ISO 21001 EOMS). Serves simultaneously on the Board of Directors of INQAAHE the global network of quality assurance agencies representing 300+ member bodies across 90+ countries and on the International Advisory Board of ENQA, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Track record includes ISO 9001 QMS implementation and transition, 100+ man-day internal audit programmes, institutional accreditation, QS World University Rankings strategy, AI-assisted dashboard development, M&E framework design, GDPR compliance, and faculty development. Published researcher with peer-reviewed work in high-impact international journals.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001, ISO 21001)
- Accreditation & Regulatory Frameworks (HEC, PMDC, PEC)
- Process Design, Documentation & SOPs
- Performance Measurement & KPI Design
- Organisational Development & Change Management
- Staff Training & Capacity Building
- Rankings Strategy (QS, THE)
- Institutional Audit & Compliance Reviews
- Risk Assessment & Risk-Based Thinking
- Gap Analysis & Corrective Action Planning
- Data Analysis & Dashboard Reporting
- Stakeholder Engagement & Board Reporting
- Project Management & Cross-functional Leadership
- Research & Evidence-Based Decision Making

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ENQA - European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

International Advisory Board Member

January 2026 – Present

- Appointed to the international advisory board of ENQA; the primary European body for quality assurance standards in higher education, representing agencies across 50+ countries.
- Contributes to policy development on cross-border quality standards, mutual recognition frameworks, and international accreditation best practices.
- Provides an Asian/Pakistani institutional perspective to European quality assurance reform discussions, bridging international standards with regional implementation realities.

INQAAHE - International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

Board Director

June 2024 – Present

- Elected to the governing board of the world's leading international quality assurance network, representing over 300 member agencies across 90+ countries.
- Contributes to global policy discussions on quality standards, cross-border accreditation, and regulatory best practices, directly relevant to international compliance frameworks in education, IT, and regulated sectors.
- Engages with quality assurance agencies from diverse industries and jurisdictions, providing exposure to multi-sector compliance environments.

Riphah International University, Islamabad

Director, Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) | Registrar (Interim)

Sep 2022 – Present

- Leads institutional quality assurance across a multi-campus university system with over 27,000 students, 2,200+ faculty, and campuses in Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Swat, Sahiwal, and Gujranwala.
- Achieved HEC QEC institutional score of 99+/100; the highest in the university's history and among the highest nationally reflecting a systematic, evidence-based approach to quality improvement.
- Designed and implemented Riphah's QS World University Rankings improvement framework, achieving a 261-position improvement in two years (2024: 627 → 2026: 366) and securing first-ever entries into QS World Rankings and two Subject Rankings.
- Developed an AI-assisted QS Rankings forecasting and dashboard model for executive and board-level decision making presented directly to the Chancellor and Board of Governors.
- Serves concurrently as Registrar (Interim); discharging all statutory functions including Board of Governors, Academic Council, and Board of Advanced Studies and Research meetings, university-wide convocations, and multi-campus regulatory compliance.
- Renewed HEC NOC for Sahiwal Campus and managed compliance submissions to PMDC, PEC, PNC, and other professional councils across all faculties.
- Manages a team of quality assurance officers across all campuses, conducting internal audits, programme reviews, and corrective action tracking.

Riphah International University, Islamabad

Senior Manager, Quality Enhancement Cell

Sep 2021 – Aug 2022

- Implemented ISO 9001 Quality Management System across the university, received Vice-Chancellor's Certificate of Appreciation for successful implementation.
- Won APQN's Best Practice of Quality Assurance During COVID-19 Pandemic Award 2022, recognised internationally for innovative QA continuity during a global crisis.
- Led HEC Campus Review compliance processes and received Certificate of Excellence for performance during institutional review visits.
- Designed and delivered training programmes for faculty, staff, and quality officers on QMS documentation, audit preparation, and continuous improvement methodologies.
- Developed SOPs, quality manuals, and performance monitoring frameworks across academic, administrative, and support functions.
- Represented the university at national and international quality assurance conferences, including INQAAHE (Bahrain, 2017) and multiple HEC/QAA-led forums.

Riphah International University, Islamabad

Manager, Quality Enhancement Cell

Feb 2014 – Aug 2021

- Conducted over 100 man-day internal audits against ISO 9001 QMS across all functional and academic units, authored audit findings, reports, and corrective action plans.
- Led the university's transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015 QMS, including risk-based thinking integration, context analysis, and stakeholder mapping.
- Provided compliance consultancy to all Strategic and Functional Units for developing Risk Management Plans aligned with ISO 9001:2015 requirements.
- Developed and led the ISO 9001 QMS Internal Audit team, trained and certified internal auditors across the university.
- Analysed management processes across the organisation to develop KPIs and workable improvement solutions aligned with strategic objectives.
- Developed and implemented an integrated strategy to improve usage of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE/Moodle), enhancing digital academic delivery across all faculties.
- Prepared and presented the QEC's five-year strategic plan to senior leadership.

Riphah International University - Riphah School of Leadership

Visiting Faculty

October 2021 – Feb 2025

- Teaching Operations Management, Total Quality Management, and Project Planning & Controlling at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

- Integrates real-world QMS, audit, and compliance case studies into academic curriculum, bridging institutional practice with academic instruction.

National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Visiting Faculty - School of Civil & Mining Engineering (SCME)

Feb 2014 – Jun 2014

- Delivered specialist instruction at NUST — one of Pakistan's top-ranked public universities — demonstrating cross-institutional academic credibility.

Deputy Chief Manager & HR Consultant (Pakistan Youth Festival Projects)

Feb 2010 – Mar 2013

- Managed HR operations and project coordination for the Pakistan Youth Festival — a large-scale, multi-city government event involving thousands of participants across Pakistan.
- Organised multiple Guinness World Record-breaking events, requiring precise operational planning, multi-stakeholder coordination, and real-time quality control under high-pressure conditions.
- Developed workforce deployment plans, performance tracking systems, and post-event compliance reports for government submission.

Decryters Solution (DSol), Lahore

Operations Executive

Feb 2010 – Jul 2012

- Managed IT operations and client-facing project delivery in an early-career role, developing foundational understanding of technology-driven service environments and operational compliance.

EDUCATION

PhD — Engineering Management	2021
National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad	
MS — Engineering Management	2013
National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad	
BSc — Computer Engineering	2010
University of Engineering & Technology (UET), Lahore	

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

ISO 21001 EOMS Lead Auditor	2022
Exemplar Global / QSi Cert #: 2022/EOMS-261222/1	
ISO 9001 QMS Lead Auditor (IRCA Registered)	2013
SGS Cert #: SGS/SSCE/QMSLAC/513036/P/35318	
GDPR Compliance: Essential Training	2023
International certification body	
Data Analysis with Python	2023
IBM / Coursera	
Python for Data Science and AI	2023
IBM / Coursera	
Databases and SQL for Data Science	2023
IBM / Coursera	
Project Management Professional (PMP — 35 PDUs)	2014
PDC NUST	
Risk Management — ISO 9001:2015	2018
RIU & LRQA UK	
Quality Assurance & Governance	2017
IMSciences & HEC	
Institutional Performance Evaluation & Programme Review	2021

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- APQN Best Practice of Quality Assurance During COVID-19 Pandemic Award, 2022 - won on behalf of Riphah International University
- Letter of Appreciation - President, INQAAHE, for contributions as international conference presenter, 2017
- Best Paper Award - 2nd International Conference on Emerging Research for Sustainable Economic Development, Manama, Bahrain, 2018
- Certificate of Excellence - HEC Campus Review, 2016
- Certificate of Appreciation - Vice-Chancellor, Riphah International University, for successful ISO 9001 QMS implementation, 2014
- Multiple Guinness World Record events successfully organised, Sports Board Punjab, 2012

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Sadiq, F., & Malik, M.S. (2022). Online Higher Education in the Wake of Covid-19: A System Thinking Perspective. Global Perspectives on Educational Innovations for Emergency Situations, Springer.
- Sadiq, F., Hussain, T., Naseem, A., Mirza, M. (2021). Pursuit of Disruptive Innovations by Middle Managers. Review of Managerial Sciences. [Impact Factor: 7.1]
- Sadiq, F., Hussain, T., & Naseem, A. (2020). Managers' Disruptive Innovation Activities: The Construct, Measurement, and Validity. Management Decision. [Impact Factor: 4.95]
- Sadiq, F., & Hussain, T. (2018). Exploring the Role of Managers in Nurturing Disruptive Innovations. Business & Economic Review, 10(4). [HEC X-Category]

Selected Conference Presentations

- INQAAHE Conference, Bahrain, 2017 -Government Initiatives to Improve Higher Education and Transnational Development
- ICQAHE, 2022 - Revisiting Online Higher Education from a System Thinking Perspective
- 2nd ERSED Conference, Bahrain, 2018 - Best Paper Award recipient

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Data Analysis & Reporting	Excel (Advanced), SPSS, Power BI
Compliance & Privacy	GDPR Compliance, ISO audit documentation, QMS frameworks, gap analysis
Project & Process Management	Microsoft Project, MS Office Suite, risk-based process design
Rankings & Benchmarking	QS Rankings methodology, forecasting models, institutional dashboard design
Learning & Collaboration	Moodle LMS, Microsoft Teams, VLE strategy and implementation
Teaching & Facilitation	Operations Management, TQM, Project Management — UG and PG level

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

- ENQA International Advisory Board Member, contributing to European quality assurance policy and cross-border standards development
- INQAAHE Board Director, active governance role in a 90+ country international quality assurance network
- International conference presentations, Bahrain (2017, 2018), Pakistan national conferences (2017, 2022)
- Research published in international Springer volume on post-COVID educational innovation

- Familiarity with accreditation and compliance standards across multiple jurisdictions — HEC (Pakistan), ENQA (Europe), PMDC, PEC, PNC, Accreditation Canada, GDPR, QS/THE international benchmarks

References available upon request | fawadsadiq2018@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/fawadsadiq](https://www.linkedin.com/in/fawadsadiq)