

# UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

### BY-LAWS

#### DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY / DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By- Laws made by the University of Colombo under section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, as amended subsequently by the Universities (Amendment) Act No. 7 of 1985.

These By-Laws may be cited as the Degree of Master of Philosophy / Doctor of Philosophy By- Laws No..... of 2021.

### Part I – General

#### Award of Degree

1. Subject to these By- Laws, a candidate may be awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy (herein after referred to as an MPhil) equivalent to Level 11 of the SLQF (Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework) or Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (herein after referred to as a PhD) equivalent to Level 12 of the SLQF if he/she has –
  - i) been a registered student of the University for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
  - ii) pursued the programme of study as prescribed by these By-Laws, and other Rules and Regulations of the University;
  - iii) satisfied the examiners in the different forms of examination and assessment including written examinations, oral examinations, reports, dissertation, oral defence of dissertations etc. as may be prescribed by these By-Laws and any other Rules and Regulations of the University;
  - iv) paid all the prescribed fees including the registration, tuition, supervision, library, laboratory, examination and other fees and all other dues as may be payable to the University;

**and**

  - v) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws and other relevant Rules and Regulations of the University.

### Part II – Admission and registration

2. No person shall be considered for admission to the programme leading to the Master of Philosophy unless that person satisfies the following minimum requirements:
  - i) an MSc degree from a recognized University acceptable to the Faculty Board of the

Faculty of Science (herein after referred to as the Faculty Board) and the Senate, in the relevant area of study

**or**

ii) a BSc Honours degree from a recognized University acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate, in the relevant area of study

**or**

iii) a BSc General degree from a recognized University acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate, with courses/subjects relevant to the area of study

**or**

iv) any other relevant qualifications acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate  
**and**

v) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by the Faculty Board on the recommendations of the Higher Degrees Committee.

**3.** No person shall be considered for admission directly to the programme leading to the Doctor of Philosophy unless that person satisfies the following minimum requirements:

i) an MPhil degree from a recognized University acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate, in the relevant area of study

**or**

ii) a B.Sc. Honours degree from a recognized University acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate, in the relevant area of study

**and**

iii) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by the Faculty Board on the recommendations of the Higher Degrees Committee.

### **Selection for Admission to the programme**

4. A person seeking admission to the MPhil or PhD Programme shall make an application to the HDC with the recommendations of the Head of the relevant Department of Study, and with the recommendations of the supervisor/supervisors and the Review Panel, in the prescribed form furnishing his/her qualifications and other information required for undertaking the Programme.

5. The Dean of the Faculty of Science shall obtain the recommendations of the Higher Degrees Committee of the Faculty of Science, and forward applications deemed suitable for acceptance, to Faculty Board, which shall be then forwarded for Senate approval.

6. Applications made under the By-Law 2 (iii) and any other candidate deemed necessary by the Faculty Board, shall be required to pass a qualifying examination in the appropriate field of study. The requirement should be completed within a maximum period of one year from the date of first registration.

The qualifying examination shall consist of:

a) An independent and directed study assigned to him/her by the Department of Study and approved by the Faculty Board followed by an examination that would be equivalent to at least three credits.

**or**

(ii) Course work at the B.Sc. Honours degree level approved by the Faculty Board followed by an examination that would be equivalent to at least three credits.

### **Registration for the programme**

7. A person whose application for the Programme of study is accepted shall be required to register for the Programme on or before a specified date and pay to the University the prescribed registration, tuition, supervision, library, laboratory, examination and other fees.
8. On payment of the prescribed fees a person shall be registered as a student of the Programme. Such registration shall be valid for the period specified in these By-Laws from the date of registration. The student shall ensure that his/her registration remains in force throughout the duration of the programme. The effective date of registration shall be the date on which the duly completed application was received at the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Science.
9. The registration shall be deemed to have lapsed at the expiration of its period of validity. A person whose registration has so lapsed may renew his/her registration for a further period, with the permission of the Faculty Board, and by paying the prescribed fees, provided that he/she is still eligible to be registered for the Programme.
10. A registration may be cancelled by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science for the following reasons.
  - i) Non-fulfilment of the requirement under By-Law 6
  - ii) Non-payment of the prescribed fees within the first three months of each year
  - iii) Non-adherence to Rules and Regulations of the University
11. A candidate may withdraw or postpone his / her registration by writing to the Dean, Faculty of Science giving reasons. In the case of a deferment the candidate should indicate the period of duration of the postponement. Each request for postponement shall be considered on its own merit by the Faculty Board.
12. The University shall not repay or refund to any person any fees paid to the University on any grounds whatsoever.

### **Upgrade from MPhil to PhD**

13. A student who has registered for an MPhil programme in the Faculty of Science and who has made satisfactory progress and completed at least two years of the MPhil programme, and satisfied any other criterion set out by the Faculty, may request for an upgrade from MPhil to a PhD. The Faculty Board shall recommend such upgrades if all requirements are met.

In the event of such an upgrade, the effective date of registration for the PhD shall be the date of registration for the MPhil.

## PART II – PROGRAMME DURATION AND STRUCTURE

### Duration of the Programme

14. Subject to these By-Laws, the minimum period of study for the Degree of Master of Philosophy shall be two years and the maximum period five years, and the minimum period of study for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be three years and the maximum period seven years.

An extension, up to a maximum of two years for either degree shall only be considered on medical / exceptional grounds, which is acceptable to the Faculty and Senate.

### Structure of the Programme

15. The programme of study shall consist of research work in a specified field or fields conducted under the guidance of a supervisor/supervisors and other recommended course work.
16. The candidate shall be required to work in the Faculty of Science or in an external Institution under the guidance of a supervisor/supervisors appointed by the Faculty Board. When a major part of the research is carried out in an external institution, at least one of the supervisors shall be from that institution. If a part of the research is carried out in an overseas institution, this work shall be overseen by a supervisor from that institution. In such a case, prior approval from the HDC shall be obtained.
17. The candidate shall be required to present research progress and engage in any other work as decided by the Faculty Board on the recommendations of the supervisor/s.
18. The candidate shall at the end of the relevant programme submit a dissertation based on the research carried out. The dissertation shall represent a substantial and significant contribution to the knowledge in the particular area of study and shall demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of methods of research, competence to present research systematically, and the ability to exercise critical and independent judgement.

## PART III – EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

19. On successful completion of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) the performance of a candidate shall be assessed on the basis of a dissertation, seminar and *viva-voce* examination on the research work carried out for the relevant degree.

i) *Examination of dissertation:*

The dissertation shall be examined by at least two examiners. For the MPhil Degree at least one of the examiners shall be external to the university. For the PhD Degree, two examiners shall be external to the university with at least one from overseas. The examiners may either accept the dissertation, reject the dissertation or recommend amendments and/or further work.

ii) *Initial submission of the dissertation:*

Three copies of the dissertation in temporary binding should be submitted in the first instance by the candidate through the supervisor/supervisors and the Head of the Department of Study to the Examinations Branch of the University. The student has the responsibility of maintaining credibility with respect to the content of the dissertation. The supervisor/ supervisors should certify that the dissertation reports original work and is of an acceptable standard as required by the University of Colombo. The Examinations Branch shall dispatch copies of the dissertation to the examiners as recommended by the Faculty Board. On receipt of the evaluation reports of the examiners, the Examinations Branch in consultation with the Faculty of Science shall organize the *viva-voce* examination.

iii) *Viva-voce Examination:*

Once the dissertation has been evaluated by the examiners a *viva-voce* examination shall be conducted. The Panel shall consist of the Vice Chancellor (Chairperson), Dean, Director Postgraduate Studies, Head of the relevant Department of Study, the examiners, an internal examiner (a member from the relevant Department of Study with a knowledge of the field of research), and the supervisor/supervisors as an observer /observers. The Panel shall submit a report on the suitability of the candidate for the award of the degree.

A candidate whose dissertation is recommended for the award of the MPhil or PhD degree with minor corrections or revisions, as prescribed by the Panel of examiners, is required to make all corrections, revisions etc. and resubmit the dissertation in the revised form within a period of three months. The corrections and revisions should be certified by the internal examiner.

Where a student has registered for a PhD degree or is upgraded to a PhD degree or is registered for an MPhil but fails to be recommended for this degree at the *viva-voce* examination, owing to major corrections and/or revisions, the student shall be given a period of one year to attend to the corrections and/or revisions and to resubmit the dissertation. The dissertation shall be sent for re-evaluation to external examiners and a *viva-voce* examination shall be conducted.

Where a student has registered for a PhD degree or is upgraded to a PhD degree but fails to be recommended for this degree at the *viva-voce* examination, the student shall be eligible for the award of the MPhil degree upon the recommendations of the Panel and subject to the request of the student, provided the student fulfills other requirements as prescribed by these By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Faculty and the University.

iv) *Final submission of the Dissertation:*

Three copies of the dissertation in the permanently bound form, together with an electronic copy, with revisions if any, prepared according to the guidelines, shall be submitted to the Examinations Branch of the University, within the specified period of time as recommended by the Panel of examiners at the oral examination. When the candidate submits the final copies of the dissertation, the internal examiner should certify that corrections and revisions, if any, have been properly effected by the candidate.

#### **PART IV – INTERPRETATION**

20. In these By-Laws unless the context otherwise requires:

“Council” means the council of the University of Colombo constituted by the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978.

“Registrar” means the Registrar, Acting Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrar, Assistant Registrar and any other officer authorised to sign for and on behalf of the Registrar of the University of Colombo.

“Senate” means the Senate of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act No. 16 of 1978.

21. Any question regarding the interpretation of these By-Laws shall be referred to the Council whose decision thereon shall be final.