



# UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

## FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Master of Development Studies  
(MDS)

By-Laws

2019

Approved by the Council  
Meeting No. 555<sup>th</sup>  
Date 10/07/2019

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**Master of Development Studies  
(MDS)**

*By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and its subsequent amendments*

Whereas the University of Colombo has been conducting the program leading to the Master of Development Studies since 2007 under its By-Laws made in that year;

Whereas the said By- Laws have been subsequently amended by the University and the said program has been conducted in terms of the said amended By- Laws and that students have been registered under the said By- Laws whose registration is still in operation;

Whereas the University Grants Commission has published Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) norms, duration, credit points, etc., of different levels of academic qualifications and has impressed upon the University to revise the existing program to bring them in line with the requirements in the published Qualification Framework;

Whereas it has become necessary to revise and revamp the program leading to the Master of Development Studies to bring it on par with the requirements laid down in the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework as updated and published by the University Grants Commission in 2015;

Whereas a new batch of students has been admitted to the University under the newly revised curriculum which has already been approved by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), the Senate and the Council of the University of Colombo in terms of which approval the students have been following the said revamped and revised program leading to the Master of Development Studies and;

Whereas it has become necessary to enact By-Laws to prescribe the revised and revamped curriculum and other provisions including those relating to procedural and substantive aspects of the program;

The Council of the University of Colombo on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Colombo makes the following By-Laws.

## By- Laws

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1. (1) These By-Laws may be cited as the Master of Development Studies (MDS) No ~~01~~<sup>18</sup> of 2019
- (2) These By-Laws shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

### Part –I- GENERAL

2. Subject to these By-Laws a person may be awarded the degree of Master of Development Studies (hereinafter referred to as the “MDS” Degree) if she/he has:
  - (a) been duly registered for the MDS program for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
  - (b) pursued the program of study in the University to the satisfaction of the Vice-Chancellor as prescribed by these By- Laws, and other Regulations and Rules of the University;
  - (c) satisfied the examiners on all forms of assessment including continuous assessments (such as assignments, etc.), semester-end examinations and independent study component;
  - (d) paid the registration, tuition, supervision, examination, library and other fees and deposits as may be payable by her/him to the University;
  - (e) ensured that the registration continues to be in force; and
  - (f) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws and the Regulations and Rules of the University
3. (1) Applications for registration for the program leading to the MDS shall be invited by notice in the newspapers and/or on the University notice board and/or on-line through the website/internet.
- (2) A person who wishes to follow the program leading to the MDS shall make an application through the conventional and/or on-line mode to the Registrar when the said program is advertised.
- (3) The application shall be on the prescribed form providing the information as she/he shall be required to submit, including her/his qualifications for undertaking the program of study.
4. There shall be a Coordinator for the study program and she/he shall be appointed by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS).



5. The relevant Registrar in charge of the subject shall refer the applications received to the Coordinator of the program. The Coordinator, having examined the applications for necessary minimum qualifications, shall call the eligible candidates for a selection test and/or an interview to be conducted by a panel including the Dean - FGS, and the Program Coordinator on which selections may be made. The list of candidates so selected shall be recommended to the Senate through Board of Studies of Development Studies (BSDS) and Faculty Board of FGS (hereinafter the Faculty Board).
6. No candidate shall be eligible for admission to the program leading to the MDS Degree, unless she/he has the following requirements as per the SLQF 2015.
- (i) A Bachelor's degree from a recognized University/Institution in Development studies; or
  - (ii) Any other Bachelor's degree, with prior learning/work experience in Development studies; or
  - (iii) Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF 8) from a recognized University/Institution or an equivalent Qualification acceptable to the Faculty Board and Senate of the University with prior learning/ work experience in Development studies; or
  - (iv) Professional qualification in Development studies from a recognized professional body which is acceptable to the Faculty Board and Senate of the University with prior learning/ work experience in Development studies; or
  - (v) Completion of NVQ level 7 (equivalent to Bachelors degree in SLQF) with relevant work experience in Development as determined by the Faculty Board and Senate of the University;

And

A good knowledge of English language and satisfactory performance at a selection test/ selection interview.

Each application under clause (v) shall be considered on its merit.

7. If the number of persons who have applied and/or who are registered for the study program in any given academic year is not sufficient, in the opinion of the Faculty Board, to make the conducting of the study program financially viable, the Faculty Board reserves the right not to conduct the program, subject to the University refunding any fees except the application fees, that may have been received from candidates.

8. (1) On acceptance of the candidature by the Faculty Board and the Senate, a person shall forthwith register as a postgraduate candidate for MDS Degree of the University upon payment of the prescribed registration, tuition, examination, library and other fees and/or deposits.
- (2) Unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board, the minimum period of registration for the MDS program shall be one academic year, and the maximum period shall not exceed three academic years counted from the date of commencement of the program. The initial registration (herein after referred to as the first period of registration) shall be valid for an academic year from the date of commencement of the program.
- (3) The registration for MDS program shall be deemed to have lapsed at the expiry of its period of validity. A candidate whose registration has so lapsed may renew her/his registration for a further period of another academic year, subject to Clause 17 (3), provided the BSDS and the Faculty Board consider her/him eligible for such registration. However, no registration shall be renewed after the expiry of two academic years from the end of the first period of registration. Any such candidate may seek registration for the MDS program as a fresh candidate if she/he failed to obtain the MDS Degree after the expiry of the maximum period of registration (three years), in competition with new applicants under the rules in force at the time of seeking such fresh registration.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary, the University shall have the right to cancel at any time the registration of a candidate for the program after due process and for cause assigned.
- (5) A person who is registered as a candidate for the program shall devote his/her time to his/her studies at the University.
9. No student shall keep away from participating at classes (lectures, discussions, seminars) or leave the island, or withdraw from examination or a classroom test whether conducted through the conventional mode and/or information communication technology driven on-line mode or a combination of multi-modes, without prior approval from the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## PART II – STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

- 10 (1) The program leading to the MDS Degree, which is unless otherwise decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of the FGS for special reasons, as prescribed in the schedule shall be one academic year with eight (08) courses of 25 total credits values, and an Independent Study component of 7000- 8000 words which carries 05 credits, offered in two semesters as prescribed in the Schedule.



- (2) The titles of the courses, syllabi, course codes, credit values and other details are those set out in the Schedule and the Senate shall have power, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board to amend, add to, delete from or vary the courses, their titles, syllabi, course codes, credit values and other details of the program. Such amendments shall come into effect after due notice.
11. The Program of Study and Examinations leading to the MDS Degree shall be conducted in the conventional mode and/or through the information communication technology driven on-line mode or a combination of multi-modes and these By-Laws, and other relevant By-Laws, Rules and Regulations passed by the University shall be so applied and interpreted in order to facilitate the effective conduct of the study program without compromising its integrity and quality.
12. The medium of instruction and examination shall be English.
13. The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board shall appoint a Board of Examiners to conduct examinations and assess the performance of candidates.

### **PART III**

#### **SCHEME OF EVALUATION AND**

#### **CRITERIA FOR PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION OR INCOMPLETE**

- 14.
- 14.1 Each course shall carry a maximum of 100 marks. The evaluation of a candidate's performance at each of the courses shall take the form of continuous assessments and end-of- semester written examinations.
- 14.2 In each of the courses 50 percent of the maximum mark shall be based on continuous assessments which assess the performance of the candidate at assignments, class-room tests, quizzes, reports, discussions, seminars, oral presentations etc.
- 14.3 The balance 50 percent of marks shall be used for assessing the performance of the candidates at the end of semester closed book written examination in an examination hall setting.
- 15.
- 15.1 Candidates may be evaluated in respect of continuous assessments by the teachers concerned.
- 15.2 The end of semester written question papers of the course shall be prepared, as far as possible, by the relevant teachers and moderated by an expert of the subject.
- 15.3 The examination of written answer scripts of the end of semester examinations and the Independent Study shall be assessed by two independent examiners appointed by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
16. The End-of-Semester Examination of each Semester shall be held as far as possible at the end of the relevant Semester, unless the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, decides otherwise.

17. (1) A candidate shall take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction.
- (2) Any candidate who fails to take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction shall, unless excused on medical grounds or any other valid grounds approved by the Senate on recommendation of the Faculty Board, be deemed to have exhausted an attempt at taking the Examination when calculating the total number of attempts at which a candidate can take the Examination.
- (3) No candidate shall be eligible to take the End-of-Semester Examination on more than three occasions (attempts) and in calculating the number of occasions (attempts) a candidate is eligible to take the Examination, the deemed attempt as referred to in sub-Clause (2) above shall also be taken into account.
18. (1) A person shall not be permitted to take the End- of Semester examination unless she/he has :
- (i) been duly registered as a MDS candidate from the commencement of the academic year for which the examination is held;
  - (ii) satisfied the attendance requirements at lectures, seminars etc. as prescribed by the Faculty Board.
  - (iii) has ensured that she/he has paid the necessary examination fees and made other payments to the University duly in respect of the entire Examination or those courses which he/she has been required to take, as the case may be;
  - (iv) registered with the Examinations Branch of the University for the Examination she/he intends to take.
  - (v) duly applied for the examination in accordance with the prescribed manner.
- (2) A candidate shall be issued the relevant admission card by the University to enter the Examination Hall where the End-of-Semester Examination is held once he/she satisfies the requirements mentioned in Clause 18.1 above.
- (3) All rules relating to the examinations and assessments as contained in the Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishment Regulation No. 1 of 1986, and its subsequent amendments shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the MDS examinations as well.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of the Regulation No. 1 of 1986, rules relating to the different forms of on-line assessment and Class Room Tests shall be formulated and implemented by the Coordinator and the relevant course teacher.
- (5) Any matters relating to such rules shall be decided by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the Coordinator and the Board of Studies of Development Studies.



Such rules may vary from course to course as well as from year to year. Such rules shall be tabled at the Faculty Board as soon as possible.

- (6) No change of these rules can take place without giving adequate notice to the candidates of the program.

19.

19. (1) Rules relating to assignments, presentations, class-room tests and other examinations shall be announced, from time to time, by the program Coordinator in consultation with the teachers concerned and Dean -FGS with the approval of the BSDS and Faculty Board and such rules shall not be changed or revoked unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board.

- (2) The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall have the power to set down the rules governing the conduct of examinations and assessments as well as to deal with any situation for which rules have already not been made.

20. (1) Each of the eight (08) taught courses and the Independent Study component shall carry a maximum Grade Point Value (GPV) of 4.00.

- (2) A candidate's performance in each of the courses shall be graded according to the following scheme and the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) is carried out considering the Grade Point Value for each such course and Credits allocated accordingly.

#### Scheme of Assessment

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade Point Value	Pass/ Not completed
90-100	A <sup>+</sup>	4.00	Distinction
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A <sup>-</sup>	3.70	
70-74	B <sup>+</sup>	3.30	Merit
65-69	B	3.00	Pass
60-64	B <sup>-</sup>	2.70	
55-59	C <sup>+</sup>	2.30	Not Completed
50-54	C	2.00	
45-49	C <sup>-</sup>	1.70	
40-44	D <sup>+</sup>	1.30	
30-39	D	1.00	
00-29	E	0.00	

(Source: UGC Circular No. 901)

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n GPV_i C_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$



Where  $GPV_i$  and  $C_i$  are the Grade Point Value earned and credit values allocated respectively for the  $n^{th}$  courses. Any calculated GPA shall be rounded to the second decimal place.

21. A candidate shall be deemed to have been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MDS Degree if she/he obtains 25 credits from all the taught courses and 5 credits from the Independent Study Component.
22. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MDS Degree may be awarded a Distinction Pass at the examination if she/he obtains a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.70 or more during the first period of registration.
23. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MDS Degree may be awarded a Merit Pass at the examination if she/he obtains GPA score between 3.30 and 3.69 during the first period of registration.
24. (1) A candidate shall be deemed to have an incomplete result in one or more courses and independent study of the MDS program if she/he obtains a GPV of less than 2.70.  
  
(2) A candidate who has incomplete result having obtained a GPV of less than 2.70 in any taught course/s during a particular semester shall repeat the written examinations of the respective course/s at the next available occasion. Such candidates shall be given the option of carrying forward the continuous assessment marks earned for that respective course conducted during the particular semester.  
  
(3) A candidate who obtains a GPV of less than 2.70 in the Independent Study shall be considered unsuccessful and incomplete in the Independent Study and shall re-submit the Independent Study within a period of one year.  
  
(4) A candidate who has an incomplete result may successfully complete the examinations, including the Independent Study where it is applicable, leading to the MDS programme if she/he satisfies the requirements prescribed in section 21 above.
25. A candidate with incomplete results shall be eligible for two further attempts provided she/he has a valid registration. She/he shall take the courses in which she/he has been unsuccessful on the very next occasion when the examination is held provided that she/he is eligible to take the examination.
20. The University shall announce through notification the names of candidates who have passed the MDS examination and those who have incomplete results in the MDS examination after completing the whole examination.

#### **PART IV -MISCELLANEOUS**

27. (1) The fees for application, tuition, examination, and repeat examination, library facilities shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the University. The fees paid shall under no circumstances be refunded except under section 7 of these By-laws.
- (2) There shall be additional fees charged from repeat candidates as determined by the Faculty Board and the Council depending on the expenses to be incurred by the University to service their repeat attempts in the instruction and examination processes..
- (3) The fee payable for a certificate or statement of results or transcripts shall be determined by the Council.
- (4) A fee shall be charged for replacement of a lost student identity card or lost library card at rates determined by the Council.

#### **PART V- TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

28. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-Laws, the candidates who have already been registered under the provisions of the By-Laws of MDS of 2007 as amended subsequently (hereinafter referred to as the 2007 By-Laws) shall be entitled to continue their program under and subject to those provisions. To that extent the provisions of the MDS By-Laws of 2007 as amended subsequently shall be operative temporarily.
- (2) Any candidate who has already been registered for the MDS program under the 2007 By-Laws shall enjoy a transition period of three years within which they shall be governed by those provisions to complete their program according to the requirements of the MDS program.
- (3) The candidates who have been registered for the MDS program under the 2007 By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MDS under those provisions (the MDS program) may within a period of one year from these By-Laws come into effect apply to the University that they be considered for transfer to the program under the present By-Laws.

Provided the Council reserves the right either to decline such request or to permit such request subject to such conditions as it may deem necessary to impose on the recommendations of the Faculty Board and the Senate.



29. (1) The Council, on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty Board may consider granting an exemption from following a course/courses and taking the examination of the course/courses subject to such conditions as it may deem fit and proper. This decision shall be made by the Council on a case-by-case basis and its decision shall be final.
- (2) The Council retains the discretion to deny any request made under sub-Clause 29.1 above if it thinks that granting the facility will be prejudicial to the interests of any stakeholders.
30. The Vice Chancellor of the University shall have the authority, in consultation with the Dean of the FGS, to take such actions or give such directions not inconsistent with the spirit and principles underlying the provisions of these By-Laws as appears to her/him to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing any difficulties that may arise in the interpretation of the provisions or for which there is no provision in these By-Laws or in the case of students who had followed or have been following the MDS Program under the earlier arrangements and/or By-Laws.

#### **PART IV- INTERPRETATIONS**

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

“Council” means the Council of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978. (as amended subsequently).

“Senate” means the Senate of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978 (as amended subsequently).

“Faculty” means the Faculty of Graduate Studies

“Faculty Board” means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

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

“Application” means an application for registration or for entry to an examination.

“Board of Studies” and “BSDS” means the Board of Studies of Development Studies of the FGS relevant to the above postgraduate degree programme.

32. Any questions regarding the interpretation of the by-laws shall be referred to the Council whose decision there on shall be final.

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Approved by the Council  
Meeting No. 555th  
Date 10/07/2019

## SCHEDULE

### Masters in Development Studies (MDS)

#### SLQF Level 09

The program of study leading to the Masters in Development Studies shall offer the subjects as given below in the academic year (Semester I & II).

Academic year	Code of Course modules	Name of Course Module	Number of credits
Semester I	MDS 6101	Economic Growth and Development	03
	MDS 6102	Research Methodology	03
	MDS 6103	Statistical Techniques for Development Research	03
	MDS 6104	Appraisal Techniques in Development Projects	03
Semester II	MDS 6201	Economic Development of Sri Lanka	04
	MDS 6202	Sociology of Development	03
	MDS 6203	International Trade and Development	03
	MDS 6204	Education and Development	03
	MDS 6205	Independent Study	05
Total Credits			30