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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Masters in Human Rights (MHR)

By-Laws

2018

Approved by the Council
Meeting No. 543rd
Date 21/11/2018

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Masters in Human Rights (MHR)

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 Masters in Human Rights since 2013 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 the students have been registered under the said By-Laws whose registration is still in operation;

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

Whereas it has become necessary to revise and revamp the program leading to the Masters in Human Rights to bring it on par with the requirements laid down in the Sri Lanka Qualifications 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 Masters in Human Rights; 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

1. (1) These By-Laws may be cited as the Masters in Human Rights By-Laws No. ²⁴ of 2018.
- (2) These By-Laws shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from 01st May 2018.

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PART I - GENERAL

2. Subject to these By-Laws a person may be awarded the Degree of Masters in Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "MHR" Degree) if she / he has:
 - (a) been duly registered for the MHR 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 the candidate 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 Rules and Regulations of the University.
3. (1) Applications for registration for the program leading to the MHR 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 MHR Degree 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 the candidate shall be required to submit, including the candidate's qualifications for undertaking the program of study.
4. There shall be a Coordinator for the 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 or her/his nominee, and the Program Coordinator on which selections may be made. The list of candidates so selected shall be recommended to the Senate through the Board of Studies of Development Studies (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the BSDS) and the Faculty Board of the FGS (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Faculty Board).
6. No candidate shall be eligible for admission to the program leading to the MHR Degree, unless she/he satisfies the following requirements as per the SLQF 2015:

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(i) A Bachelor's degree from a recognized University/Institution in the field of Human

Rights; or

- (ii) Any other Bachelor's Degree, with prior learning/work experience in Human Rights ; or
- (iii) Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF 8) from a recognized University/Institution or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University with prior learning/work experience in Human Rights ; or
- (iv) Professional qualification in Human Rights from a recognized professional body which is acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University with prior learning/work experience in Human Rights ; or
- (v) Completion of NVQ level 7 (Equivalent to Bachelor's degree in SLQF) with relevant work experience in Human Rights as determined by the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University.

And

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

Each application under clauses (iii) and (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 post-graduate candidate for MHR 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 MHR 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 period of registration (hereinafter referred to as first period of registration) shall be valid for an academic year from the date of commencement of the program.
- (3) The registration for MHR 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 MHR program as a fresh candidate if she/he failed to obtain the MHR Degree after the expiry of the maximum period of registration (i.e. three academic years), in competition

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with new applicants under the regulations and 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 her/his time to her/his studies at the University.
9. No student shall abstain from participating at classes (lectures, discussions, seminars etc.) 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 FGS.

PART II – STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

10. (1) The program leading to the MHR Degree, unless otherwise decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board for special reasons, shall be one academic year with six (06) courses of 22 total credits, and an Independent Study component of 8000 to 9000 words which carries 08 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 MHR 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.

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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 forms of continuous assessments and End-of-Semester written Examinations.

14.2 In each of the taught courses 50 percent of the maximum mark shall be based on continuous assessments which assess the performance of the candidate at assignments, classroom 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 written examination in an examination hall setting.

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15.1 The candidates may be evaluated in respect of continuous assessments by the teachers concerned.

15.2 The end of semester written question papers of the courses 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 as far as possible held 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 MHR 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 sit; and
 - (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 she/he satisfies the requirements mentioned in the Sub-Clause (1) above.
 - (3) All the 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 MHR examinations as well.
 - (4) Without prejudice to the generality of the Regulation No. 1 of 1986, rules relating to 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. (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 the 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 Six (06) 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 ⁺	4.00	Distinction
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A-	3.70	
70-74	B ⁺	3.30	Merit
65-69	B	3.00	Pass
60-64	B ⁻	2.70	
55-59	C ⁺	2.30	
50-54	C	2.00	Not Completed
45-49	C ⁻	1.70	
40-44	D ⁺	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.

21.1 A candidate shall be deemed to have been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHR Degree if she/he obtains 22 credits from all the taught courses and 08 credits from the Independent Study component.

21.2 A candidate who does not obtain a minimum GPV of 2.7 in a taught course or Independent Study shall be deemed not to have earned the credit allotted to that taught course or Independent Study as the case may be.

22. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHR 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 MHR 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.

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24. (1) A candidate shall be deemed to have an incomplete result in one or more taught courses and independent study of the MHR 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/s 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 MHR 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 incomplete result/s on the very next occasion when the examination is held provided that she/he is eligible to take the examination.
26. The University shall announce through notification the names of candidates who have passed the MHR examination and those who have incomplete results in the MHR 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 MHR No 1 of 2013 as amended subsequently (hereinafter referred to as the 2013 By-Laws) shall be entitled to continue their program under and subject to those provisions. To that extent the provisions of the MHR By-Laws of 2013 as amended subsequently shall be operative temporarily.
- (2) Any candidate who has already been registered for the MHR program under the 2013 By-Laws shall enjoy a transit on period of three years within which they shall be governed by those provisions to complete their program according to the requirements of the MHR program.
- (3) The candidates who have been registered for the MHR program under the 2013 By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MHR under those provisions (the MHR 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 that 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 stake holders.
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 MHR Program under the earlier arrangements and/or By-Laws.

PART IV- INTERPRETATIONS

30. 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).

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

"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.

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

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