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Student Handbook



**Postgraduate
Institute of Science**
University of Peradeniya

PGIS

PGIS HANDBOOK 2025

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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



HANDBOOK 2025

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Postgraduate Institute of Science **PGIS**

VISION

To be an internationally renowned centre of excellence for Postgraduate Training,
Innovative Research & Development in Sciences

MISSION

To contribute to the development of a globally recognized society with social sensitivity,
ethical rectitude and economic prosperity to promote innovative research and outreach
activities in an intellectually stimulating and a conducive academic environment



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INTRODUCTION

01



1 INTRODUCTION

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) is a national institute established in 1996 by a gazetted ordinance by the Minister of Higher Education in order to strengthen and stimulate the postgraduate education and, research and development (R&D) in various scientific disciplines in Sri Lanka, fulfilling a long-felt need in this country. Being a national institute, it allows the PGIS to practice innovative approaches and implement novel programmes depending on national development requirements. The PGIS is attached to the University of Peradeniya (<https://www.pdn.ac.lk/>), Sri Lanka and situated in the premises of the University of Peradeniya. It provides an ideal environment for intellectual activities in interdisciplinary areas of science due to the diversity of academic departments within the University of Peradeniya.

The academic programmes of the PGIS are conducted through eleven Boards of Study, in close collaboration with the Faculty of Science (<https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/>), University of Peradeniya. The teaching panels of the PGIS are served by high-caliber well qualified teachers and researchers drawn from the University of Peradeniya, as well as from other universities and institutes recognized locally and internationally. The excellent research facilities available at the Faculty of Science and other faculties of the University of Peradeniya and research institutions in the country as well as within the PGIS are used to provide research training to its students. Currently, the PGIS offers Ph.D., M.Phil., M.Sc., postgraduate diploma programmes and certificate courses. The PGIS offers some postgraduate scholarships to attract students with high aptitude. The PGIS caters to the growing demand for trained Science and Technology manpower by conducting in-service training programmes, short courses, workshops and outreach activities,

and provides consultancy services to industry and public/private sector organizations. Sandwich and collaborative programmes with reputed institutions worldwide are also conducted.

Within a relatively short duration, the PGIS has become the institution which produces the highest number of Ph.D., M.Phil., M.Sc., graduates in sciences in Sri Lanka, while maintaining the quality of the programmes. Further, the research output in terms of number of publications in indexed journals, patents and research grants from local as well as foreign agencies has increased significantly and thus receiving a wide national and international recognition. This has resulted in attracting many postgraduate students locally and internationally. As such, the PGIS has become a prestigious national institute in Sri Lanka for postgraduate education and research in scientific disciplines. The PGIS alumni provide their expertise in academia, R&D, industry, banking sector and various other organizations, locally as well internationally.

The PGIS regularly organizes national and international conferences, workshops and short-term training courses, on issues of scientific interest, particularly of national relevance. A large number of persons from academia, public and private sector have participated in these events. The PGIS organizes the annual Research Congress to provide a platform for researchers, in particular to the postgraduate students to share their research findings with the local as well as foreign researchers.

The PGIS intends to expand its activities, while maintaining academic excellence in postgraduate education and research in sciences in this country with international recognition and fulfilling the scientific manpower needs of the nation and looks forward to a productive future ahead.



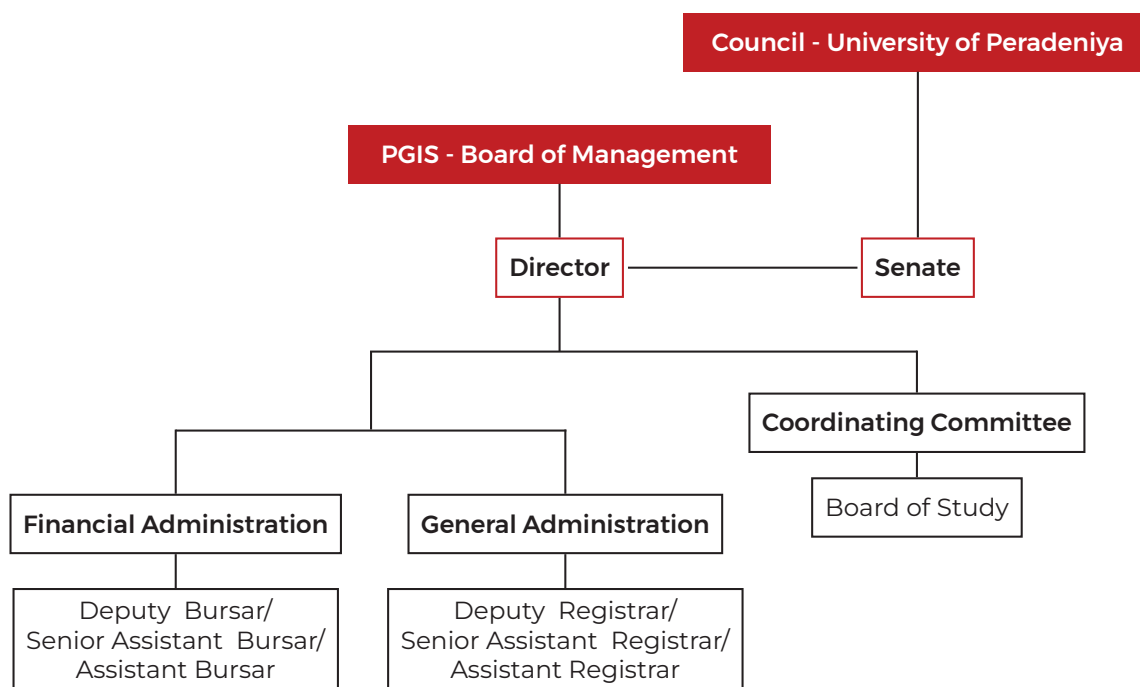
ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

02

2 ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

2.1 Organizational Structure

The PGIS operates under a Director with its administration governed by a Board of Management. Approval for academic programmes and award of degrees are administered by the Senate and Council of the University of Peradeniya. The PGIS consists of two major divisions as General Administration Division and Finance Administration Division. Academic guidance is provided by the Coordinating Committee and the Boards of Study.



A Deputy Registrar/ a Senior Assistant Registrar/ an Assistant Registrar acts as the Head of the General Administration Division. A Deputy Bursar/ a Senior Assistant Bursar/ an Assistant Bursar acts as the Head of the Financial Administration Division. General administration matters such as student registration, reservation of facilities and issuance of transcripts are functioned under the General Administration Division. Financial matters such as handling of internal and external funds and payments are functioned under the Finance Administration Division.

2.2 Board of Management

The Board of Management is chaired by the Director and includes members appointed by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, University Grants Commission, Chairpersons or nominees of Boards of Study, Deputy Registrar/Senior Assistant Registrar or Assistant Registrar of the PGIS as secretary to the Board, Coordinator of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/qac.php>) and the Legal Advisor of the PGIS on invitation. Given below is the list of members in the Board of Management.

- ▶ Director, Postgraduate Institute of Science
- ▶ Secretary, Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education (or nominee)
- ▶ Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (or nominee)
- ▶ Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology (or nominee)
- ▶ Director-General, National Science Foundation (or nominee)
- ▶ President, Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (or nominee)

- ▶ Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
- ▶ One other Dean to represent the Faculties of Science of all Universities, nominated by the Standing Committee in Science of the UGC
- ▶ Two Members appointed by the University Grants Commission
- ▶ Chairpersons or nominated members of the Boards of Study

2.3 Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Director, is responsible for approving matters related to programme development, overseeing the conduct of courses, and managing examination related matters. The Coordinating Committee consists of following members.

- ▶ Director
- ▶ Dean, Faculty of Science of the University of Peradeniya
- ▶ Chairpersons of the Boards of Study
- ▶ Heads of Departments of Faculty of Science who are not Chairpersons
- ▶ Secretaries of the Boards of Study
- ▶ Librarian, University of Peradeniya or his/her nominee
- ▶ Programme Coordinators (by invitation)

2.4 Boards of Study

Postgraduate (PG) programmes are managed by the following Boards of Study.

- ▶ Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- ▶ Biomedical Sciences
- ▶ Chemical Sciences
- ▶ Earth Sciences
- ▶ Environmental Science
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Physics
- ▶ Plant Sciences
- ▶ Science Education
- ▶ Statistics and Computer Science
- ▶ Zoological Sciences

Each Board of Study is chaired by the Chairperson of the Board of Study and consists of nine members as given below:

- ▶ Director
- ▶ Chairperson of the Board of Study
- ▶ Head of the relevant Department of the Faculty of Science of the University
- ▶ Four members appointed by the Board of Management from among the teachers in the University specialized in the relevant field of study, on the recommendation of the university

- ▶ Three members appointed by the Board of Management from among persons of eminence in the appropriate specialty in science

2.5 Officers of the Institute

The Director, Deputy Registrar/Senior Assistant Registrar/ Assistant Registrar and the Deputy Bursar/ Senior Assistant Bursar/ Assistant Bursar are the principal officers of the PGIS. The Director is the chief administrative and financial officer of the Institute.



ADMINISTRATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

03

3 ADMINISTRATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

3.1 Introduction

Programme administrators and support staff assist you at every step of your journey at PGIS, from enrollment to graduation and beyond. They are dedicated ensuring that you have access to the resources, guidance, and assistance necessary to thrive academically and personally. By familiarizing yourself with the information provided in this section, you will be able to engage with programme administration team and make informed decisions throughout your studies.

Postgraduate students are encouraged to explore the following details to access information on relevant topics. Gaining insight into these aspects of programme administration will enhance your educational experience and empower you to actively and knowledgeably engage in your academic journey.

3.2 Programme Management

Each study programme is administered by a Board of Study. Each Board of Study offers Certificate, Diploma, Masters, MSc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes (Chapters 5 - 7). Except M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes, each programme is coordinated by a programme coordinator(s). Once you register, the programme coordinator will communicate with you regarding class schedules, assessments and other relevant matters until you will be graduated.

3.3 Management Information System

The Management Information System (MIS) is a crucial tool designed to enhance your academic experience and streamline administrative functions. MIS serves as a centralized hub for accessing vital information related to your studies, campus activities, and more.

Accessing MIS: To access the MIS, simply log in using student credentials provided by the PGIS through the Institute's official portal. You will find a user-friendly interface that provides a wide range of features and functions.

Academic records: Allows to access class schedules, grades, transcripts, and academic progress reports. MIS assists to keep track of registration status and degree requirements effortlessly.

Financial information: Facilitates to review billing statements, view account balances, and make payments securely.

Course management: Allows to enroll in courses, view syllabi, and access digital course materials, submit assignments, participate in discussion forums, and connect with professors and classmates.

Campus resources: Provides information on important campus resources such as the library catalog, career services, and student organizations. Stay informed about campus events and announcements.

Personal profile: Facilitates updating contact information, emergency contacts, and communication preferences. Ensure that your profile is current for university notifications.

Benefits of MIS: Use of the MIS can greatly enhance your academic and extracurricular experience. It provides real-time access to critical information, reducing administrative hassles and enhancing your ability to stay organized and informed throughout your academic journey.

Support and assistance: If you encounter any issues or have questions regarding the MIS, our IT support team is readily available to assist you. Feel free to reach out for technical assistance, user guidance, or troubleshooting.

3.4 Payment of fees

Timely payment of tuition fees is a necessity to ensure access to educational resources, services, and other academic related information. All students are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

Payment deadlines: Deadlines for payment of tuition fees for each semester or term are outlined in the academic calendar. It is your responsibility to make payments on or before these deadlines to avoid late fees and potential enrollment holds.

Payment methods: Various payment methods are offered, including online payments through secure portal, in-person payments at the finance office, and other approved methods as specified. Please refer to the Institute's official website or contact the student finance office for detailed payment instructions.

For online payment, please visit the PGIS website for payment details (<https://ipg.pgis.lk/>)

For cash payment, pay at the Shroff Counter of the PGIS.

For depositing local currency, deposit them to the PGIS A/C No. 0081041788 at Bank of Ceylon, Peradeniya, using the paying-in-voucher prepared by the Institute for this purpose. You may make the payment at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon.

For depositing foreign currency, deposit them to the PGIS A/C No. 2233593 at Bank of Ceylon, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. If the deposit is made outside Sri Lanka, please use the SWIFT CODE: BCEYLKLX.

After bank deposit, you should attach a scanned copy of the Bank Slip with the applicant's name

The payment details (applicant's full name, Student ID number, amount deposited, purpose of payment, date of deposit, etc.) should also be sent to the PGIS office.

Payments by other methods are acceptable only if prior arrangements have been made with the Institute. A receipt for payment of the prescribed fee should be annexed to the applications for registration, obtaining transcript, certificate, etc.

Late fees and consequences: Failure to pay tuition fees by the specified deadlines may result in late fees, enrollment holds, and other financial penalties. Continued non-payment may lead to the cancellation of your programme registration or other academic services.

Revision of fees: The fees are revised from time to time by the Board of Management of the PGIS. Please see the PGIS website: <http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/> for updated fees of relevant Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma and Masters/M.Sc. Degree programme.

3.5 Examinations

The successful administration of exams is essential to maintain the integrity and fairness of academic programmes. All students are expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct during examinations. This includes arriving at the exam venue on time with appropriate identification, and necessary materials such as pens, pencils, and authorized aids. It is important that students maintain absolute silence during the examination, refrain from any form of cheating or academic dishonesty, and follow the instructions of the supervisors or proctors at all times. Any violation of rules may result in disciplinary actions, including but not limited to, a failing grade for the exam, course, or even academic suspension. We urge all students to review and fully understand the examination guidelines to ensure a fair and successful academic experience for all.

Examinations include end-semester exams for taught courses and theses defenses for M.Phil. and Ph.D.

3.6 Release of Results

The PGIS is committed to release results as early as possible and transparent access to your performance evaluations.

Result notification: At the conclusion of each examination period or academic assessment, results will be compiled, assessed, and recorded by the PGIS's academic administration. Notification of result availability will typically be communicated through Institute email and the Management Information System (MIS). Please ensure that your contact information, especially your email address, is up-to-date to receive timely notifications.

Result timelines: PGIS aims to release results promptly following the completion of assessments, and specific result release dates will be available on the academic calendar or through official communications. Typically, results could be released within three weeks after the conclusion of an examination or assignment submission.

Accessing results: To access results, log into the Management Information System (MIS) using your student credentials. Within the MIS, navigate to the "Academic Records" or "Grades" section, where you will find your individual course grades and performance feedback. If you encounter any issues accessing your results, please contact the PGIS's IT support for assistance.

Confidentiality and data security: Academic results are confidential and will only be accessible to you and authorized Institute personnel. Data security is taken seriously and implements strict measures to protect your academic records. Please refrain from sharing your login credentials or academic records with anyone to maintain the privacy and integrity of your results.

Grade appeals: In the event that you have concerns or believe there may be an error in your assessment, the university has a grade appeal process in place. Refer to the PGIS's official policies and procedures for details on how to appeal for a grade review (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/downloads/students.php>).

Your academic results reflect your hard work and dedication. You are encouraged to regularly check for result notifications, review your performance, and seek academic support or guidance when needed. The PGIS is ready to assist throughout your educational journey.

Final result of the programme: The PGIS conducts a Results Board meeting to consider the award of the Postgraduate Diploma, Masters Degree or M.Sc. Degree to the candidate. The Results Board will release the final results subject to confirmation by the Board of Management of the PGIS and the Senate of the University of Peradeniya.

Composition of the Results Board:

1. Director/PGIS or Director nominated Chairperson
2. Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study or his/her nominee
3. Secretary of the relevant Board of Study
4. Coordinator(s) of the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/Masters/M.Sc. programme

3.7 Issuance of Transcripts

Transcripts provide a comprehensive record of your academic achievements during your academic journey at the institute. The PGIS has made arrangements to issue transcripts whenever you need.

Transcript requests: To request an official transcript, you can fill out the transcript request form available on the PGIS's website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/downloads/students.php>) or visit the Registrar's office in person. Ensure that all outstanding financial obligations to the PGIS have been settled before making a request.

Processing time: Transcript requests are typically processed within [3-5 business days] from the date of request. Please plan your transcript requests accordingly, especially when applying to external institutions or employers with specific deadlines.

Fees: There may be a nominal fee associated with each transcript request. Please consult the PGIS's official fee schedule or contact the Registrar's office for the current transcript issuance fee. Payment can be made through credit card, check, or cash.

Transcript Delivery Options:

Electronic transcripts: As many institutions and organizations accept electronic transcripts, you may specify the recipient's email address on your request form, and the transcript will be sent securely to that address.

Mailed transcripts: If a physical transcript is required, you may choose to have it mailed to the recipient's address or your own. Be sure to provide accurate mailing information.

In-Person pickup: For local students or those who prefer a physical copy, transcripts may be picked up in person at the Registrar's office during regular business hours.

Transcript requests for alumni: Even after graduation, you may request transcripts as needed. Follow the same process outlined above to obtain your transcripts.

3.8 Examination by Laws

Please refer to Examination by laws of the Postgraduate Institute of Science.

3.9 Code of Conduct

The PGIS recognizes the importance of upholding the highest standards of academic and personal conduct. The code of conduct serves as a guide to ensure that you contribute positively to the academic community and uphold the reputation of the Institute.

Academic integrity:

It is required to uphold the principles of academic integrity and honesty in academic work, including research, coursework, exams, and publications.

Properly cite and give credit to all sources of information, ideas, and contributions used in your work, in accordance with established citation and referencing guidelines.

Do not engage in plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty.

Respect and professionalism:

Treat all members of the academic community including fellow students, faculty, staff, and researchers with respect, courtesy, and professionalism.

Engage in constructive and open dialogue, valuing diverse perspectives and ideas while respecting differences of opinion.

Maintain a professional demeanor in all academic and research settings, both on and off campus.

Research ethics:

Conduct research with the highest ethical standards, ensuring the welfare of participants and the responsible use of research funds and resources.

Adhere to all ethical guidelines and regulations relevant to the field of study, including obtaining proper approvals for research involving human subjects, animals, or sensitive data.

Do not engage in any form of research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in research work.

■ ***Responsible use of resources:***

Use resources, facilities, and equipment responsibly and in accordance with institutional policies and guidelines. Do not engage in the unauthorized use or distribution of university resources or materials.

■ ***Respect for privacy:***

Respect the privacy and confidentiality of personal and academic information, as well as sensitive data of fellow students, faculty, staff, and research participants.

■ ***Community engagement:***

Actively engage in the academic and local communities, contributing positively to the PGIS's and university's mission and the broader society.

■ ***Reporting violations:***

Promptly report any violations of this code of conduct to the appropriate university authorities.

■ ***Consequences of violations:***

Violations of this code of conduct may result in disciplinary actions, as determined by the university's policies and procedures.



OVERVIEW OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

[SLQF LEVELS 7 – 12]

04

4 OVERVIEW OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES [SLQF LEVELS 7 – 12]

4.1 Introduction

The PGIS offers study programmes leading to Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, and Masters (by course work), M.Sc. (course work with a research component), MPhil. (by research) and Ph.D. (by research) Degrees in the respective discipline of science. The medium of instruction of all the programmes shall be English.

Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) (<https://www.eugc.ac.lk/qac/>) is a national framework designed for improving the quality and relevance of higher education and training through recognizing and accrediting qualifications offered by different higher educational institutions. This framework identifies different levels to which the qualifications offered by different institutions match. Therefore, the SLQF combines diverse qualifications and training provided by educational institutions in the country under one system so that the educational level of various academic programmes can easily be identified and compared.

The PGIS has adopted SLQF for all its academic programmes. According to SLQF, each programme is assigned a level for easy identification of the respective qualification. The qualification at exit (SLQF level) for each programme of study, entry requirement, credit/GPA requirements to be fulfilled to obtain the relevant qualification, and other information are given in the table below. Progressive pathways within SLQF are illustrated in Figure 4.1, and details are given in Chapters 4 and 5.

Programme of Study (Qualification at exit)	Entry Requirement (minimum)	Requirements to be fulfilled in the programme			Duration/ Years (minimum)
		Credit Requirement		GPA Requirement (minimum)	
		Course work	Research		
Postgraduate Certificate (SLQF L7)	SLQF L5	20	-	2.75	1
Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF L8)	SLQF L5	25	-	2.75	1
Masters Degree by course work (SLQF L9)	SLQF L5	30	-	3.00	1
Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree (SLQF L10)	SLQF L9 ²	30	30	3.00 (Course work)	2
Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree (SLQF L11)	SLQF L6 ³ or SLQF L7	4	60	3.00 (Course work)	2
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree (SLQF L12)	SLQF L6 or SLQF L7	6	90	3.00 (Course work)	3
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree (SLQF 12)	Through SLQF L11	6	90 (total)	3.00 (Course work)	3 (total)

¹ SLQF L5 - B.Sc. degree, ²The credits obtained by fulfilling the requirements of the SLQF L9 qualification will be transferred to SLQF L10 provided that the degree relevant to the SLQF L9 is not awarded, ³SLQF L6 - B.Sc. Honors degree

Note: Credits considered for one qualification/degree shall not be valid for another qualification/degree at the PGIS.

4.2 Possible Educational Progression Pathways within Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework

The Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) (<https://www.eugc.ac.lk/qac/>) is a vital tool that plays an important role in shaping the educational and professional landscape of Sri Lanka. It provides a structured and standardized framework through which individuals can plan their educational and career journeys. Within the SLQF, there exist multiple progression pathways, each offering unique opportunities for personal and professional development. These pathways encompass a wide range of academic, vocational, and technical qualifications allowing individuals to follow their courses according to their interests, aspirations and abilities. Whether one aspires to excel in academia, gain specialized vocational skills, or embark on a hybrid journey that combines both, the SLQF offers a roadmap which is both flexible and comprehensive.

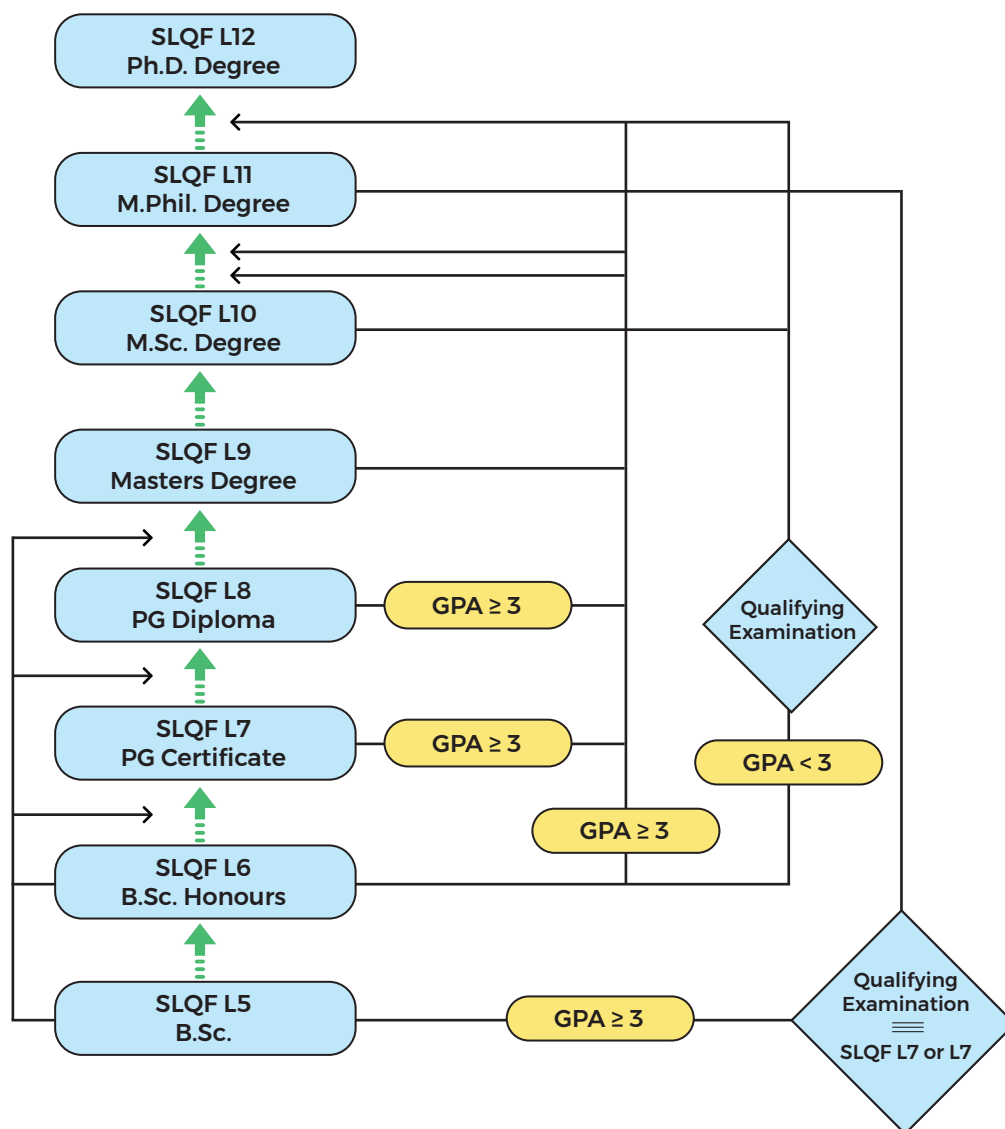


Figure 4.1: Progression pathways within Sri Lanka qualifications framework.

The flow chart given in Figure 4.1 shows the different possibilities of progression in pursuing postgraduate qualification from SLQF level 7 to SLQF level 12. The progression pathway includes direct admission to a qualification or admission through intermediate steps empowering individuals and institutions to select choices in their pursuit of educational and professional excellence.

Entry to a Ph.D. Programme

Some students may choose to pursue a Ph.D. immediately after completing their Bachelor's degree. In this pathway, graduates having obtained SLQF Level 6 qualification with GPA ≥ 3 and strong academic

recommendations can apply directly to Ph.D. programmes. If the application is successful, the applicant shall be initially admitted to the M.Phil. programme, and be upgraded to the Ph.D. programme after passing a progress review examination which shall be conducted before the completion of the second year (for full-time candidates) or completion of the third year (for part-time students). The candidate is required to demonstrate both the theory and practical knowledge relevant to the research project at the progress review examination.

The performance of the progress review examination shall be evaluated as follows:

1. Pass
2. Conditional pass (The weak area of subject matter will be reevaluated)
3. Repeat (The entire progress review examination shall be conducted again)
4. Fail (No further attempt shall be given)

Once the candidate has successfully completed the progress review examination, the Ph.D. registration shall be back-dated to the date of the initial registration of the M.Phil. degree.

Masters and M.Phil. Degree as an intermediate step

Many students opt to earn a Masters and M.Phil. degree before embarking on a Ph.D. journey. This intermediate step allows you to build a more robust academic foundation, explore research interests, and improve qualifications. After obtaining a Masters or M.Phil., you can apply for Ph.D. programmes in the same field of study subject to satisfactory progress in research. Generally, this is an upgrade option based on progress evaluation.

PG Certificate and Diploma programme

Students with SLQF levels 5 and 6 can also obtain PG Certificate and Diploma qualifications as an intermediate step in their pursuit of educational and professional excellence.



POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

[SLQF LEVELS 7, 8]

05

5 POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES [SLQF LEVELS 7, 8]

5.1 Introduction

The PGIS offers study programmes leading to Postgraduate Certificate (SLQF level 7) and Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF level 8) programmes in the respective disciplines of science. A candidate may register for a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in a chosen field of study with the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study.

5.2 Postgraduate Certificate (SLQF Level 7)

Postgraduate Certificate shall be awarded upon successful completion of at least 20 credits of required course work with at least a C grade for each course and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 for all courses taken for credit. The minimum duration of the postgraduate certificate programme is 12 months.

In addition, students should attend the Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

5.3 Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF Level 8)

Postgraduate Diploma shall be awarded upon successful completion of at least 25 credits of required course work with at least a C grade for each course and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 for all courses taken for credit. The minimum duration of the Postgraduate Diploma programme is 12 months.

In addition, students should attend the Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

5.4 Admission Requirements

- A.** The applicant should possess at least one of the following qualifications in the relevant subject area:
- (i) a B.Sc. Honours/Special Degree (SLQF Level 6) from a university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)
 - or
 - (ii) a B.Sc. General Degree (SLQF Level 5) from a university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission(UGC)
 - or
 - (iii) any other equivalent qualifications acceptable to the PGIS with minimum of 30 credits in the relevant subject area acceptable to the Board of Study
 - and
- B.** Any other requirement/s as stipulated in the relevant, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate programme

5.5 Application Procedure

An applicant is expected to refer to advertisements in printed/electronic media or PGIS website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/>) for details regarding the commencement of Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma Programmes. Every application for enrolment must be made in duplicate on the prescribed forms downloaded from the website. The completed application form should accompany the prescribed processing fee. The relevant academic/professional qualifications possessed by the candidate should be supported by academic transcripts

and authenticated copies of degree/diploma certificates. Applicants are advised to submit certified photocopies of original certificates along with the completed application. Applicants should arrange to have official copy/copies of transcript(s) sent directly to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that two letters of recommendation, at least one of which should be from an academic referee, are sent by the referees under confidential cover to the PGIS.

Duly completed application should be forwarded to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS.

5.6 Processing of Applications

Applications are initially screened by the relevant Board of Study. Applications which are incomplete or carrying false information shall be rejected at the screening process. Those who are eligible will be called for an Aptitude Test, and an additional subject-based test depending on the programme. The selection shall be based on academic merit and the performance at the test(s) and an interview conducted by the PGIS. The decision of the PGIS shall be final with regard to admission to any postgraduate programme.

5.7 Registration and Related Matters

An applicant who has been selected as a postgraduate student shall be required to register at the PGIS to follow the postgraduate programme. Originals of all certificates and a certified copy of English translation of the birth certificate should be produced before admission. The date of registration shall be specified by the PGIS. Registration is valid only for one year. At registration, students are required to make the relevant payments.

5.8 Continuation of Registration

A student should maintain the registration continuously throughout the Certificate/Diploma programme by paying the appropriate fees (Section 3.3) on time as stipulated by the PGIS.

5.9 Concurrent Registration

A student who is registered for a postgraduate programme in the PGIS is not permitted to register concurrently for another postgraduate programme in the PGIS.

5.10 Withdrawal from a Programme

A postgraduate student wishing to withdraw from the programme for which he/she is registered should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS, through the Programme Coordinator and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study. The PGIS will retain 5% of the programme fee if the request for withdrawal is submitted before the commencement of the programme. The PGIS will retain 15% of the programme fee if the request for withdrawal is submitted within three weeks of the commencement of the programme. No refund will be made after three weeks from the commencement of the programme.

5.11 Change of the Programme Registration

Students may request to change the registration from one programme to another programme with the approval of the relevant Board of Study within two weeks of the commencement of the programme. The student must meet the fee requirement of the new programme.

5.12 Amendments to Registration

A student who wishes to make amendments to his/her registration with regard to personal information, project topic/ title, etc. should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS, through the Programme Coordinator and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study.

5.13 Postponement of Registration

A student who desires to postpone his/her registration for a programme should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS, through the Programme Coordinator and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study giving valid reasons and indicating the duration of postponement. If a student postpones his/her registration for a year or more than one year, the new programme fee shall be charged.

5.14 Cancellation of Registration

Registration of a student may be cancelled by the PGIS on the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study for poor academic progress, violation of rules and regulations of the PGIS, plagiarism, failure to pay prescribed fees on schedule, or any other reasons as decided by the PGIS.

5.15 Leave of Absence

Leave of absence from a programme may be granted to a student only on medical grounds or any other valid reasons acceptable to the PGIS. Request for such leave should be made in writing to the Director, PGIS, through the Programme Coordinator and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study.

5.16 Examinations and Evaluation Procedure

Each course taken by the student will be evaluated through the scheme as given below.

Evaluation Scheme

The evaluation of each course shall be based on in-course assessments and end-semester examinations. The weightage of marks given below can generally be used as a guideline in the computation of the final grade.

End of course examination 60-80%

Continuous assessments (mid-semester examination, assignments, etc.) 20-40%

Courses with laboratory and/or fieldwork may be evaluated only by continuous assessments.

Based on the scheme given above, the overall performance of a student in a given course unit shall be evaluated by the respective instructor(s) and a grade will be assigned. The minimum grade a student should earn to pass a course is C.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

On completion of the end of course examinations, the instructors are required to hand over the grades of course units to the Programme Coordinator who assigns the Grade Points according to the following table:

Grade	Grade Point
A+	4.0
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0

Grade	Grade Point
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
E	0.0

Make-up Examinations

'Make-up' examinations may be given only to students who fail to sit a particular examination due to medical or other valid reasons acceptable to the PGIS.

5.17 Requirements for the Award of the Certificate and Diploma Programmes

The Postgraduate Certificate may be awarded to a candidate who has satisfied the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in the Section 5.4,
- (ii) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the relevant programme,
- (iii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme,
- (iv) obtained at least a C in each course taken for credit and attained a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above for 20 credits of required course work and
- (v) attended Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

The Postgraduate Diploma may be awarded to a candidate who has satisfied the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in the Section 5.4,
- (ii) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the relevant programme,
- (iii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme,
- (iv) obtained at least a C in each course taken for credit and attained a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above for 25 credits of required course work and
- (v) attended Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

However, a candidate who has satisfied the requirements (i) to (iii) above and obtained a cumulative GPA in the range of 2.75 - 2.99 for 20 credits including all the compulsory course work is deemed to have completed the Postgraduate Certificate, which will be awarded accordingly.

5.18 Criteria for the Effective Date of the Certificate and Diploma Programme

The effective date of the qualification should be a date after the expiry of the minimum duration of a given programme. The effective date of the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma shall be the date on which the last examination of the programme is held.



MASTERS AND MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.SC.) DEGREE PROGRAMMES

[SLQF LEVELS 9, 10]

06

6 MASTERS AND MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.SC.) DEGREE PROGRAMMES [SLQF LEVELS 9, 10]

6.1 Introduction

The PGIS offers programmes leading to Masters Degree (SLQF level 9) by course work and Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree (SLQF level 10) in the respective discipline of science. A candidate has to register for a Masters Degree programme in a chosen field of study with the approval of the relevant Board of Study. Upon successful completion of the requirements of the Masters Degree, the candidate has the option to continue the study towards the M.Sc. Degree.

6.2 Masters Degree (SLQF level 9)

The Masters Degree is awarded upon successful completion of at least 30 credits of required course work with at least a C grade in each course, and a minimum GPA of 3.00 for all the courses taken for credit. The minimum duration of the Masters Degree programme is 12 months. Course work of each Masters Degree programme consists of compulsory course units including a five-credit independent study guided by a supervisor, and optional course units.

6.3 Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree (SLQF Level 10)

In addition to the successful completion of the course work requirement for the Masters Degree (SLQF Level 9), the Master of Science Degree (SLQF Level 10) requires successful completion of a research project of minimum 12 month duration and worth 30 credits (3000 notional hours). Thus, the minimum duration of the programme is two years.

Note: A postgraduate candidate who wishes to exit the programme with a lower qualification/SLQF Level may apply for the desired qualification after successful completion of the requirements of the relevant qualification. The same coursework/research shall not be considered for more than one qualification.

6.4 Admission Requirements

- A.** The applicant should possess at least one of the following qualifications in the relevant subject area:
- (i) a B.Sc. Honours/Special Degree (SLQF Level 6) from a university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)
 - or
 - (ii) a B.Sc. Degree (SLQF Level 5) from a university/institution recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)
 - or
 - (iii) any other equivalent qualifications acceptable to the PGIS with minimum of 30 credits in the relevant subject area acceptable to the Board of Study
 - or
 - (iv) any other requirement/s as stipulated in the relevant Masters Degree/ M. Sc. Degree Programme
- and*
- B.** Achieve the required level of proficiency in either an Aptitude test or an interview or both

6.5 Application Procedure

An applicant is expected to refer to advertisements in printed/electronic media or PGIS website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/>) for details regarding the commencement of Masters degree/ M.Sc. degree programmes. Every application for enrolment must be made in duplicate on the prescribed forms downloadable from the website. The completed application form should accompany the prescribed processing fee. The relevant academic/professional qualifications possessed by the candidate should be supported by academic transcripts and authenticated copies of degree/diploma certificates. Applicants are advised to submit certified photocopies of original certificates along with the completed application. Applicants should arrange to have official copy/copies of transcript(s) sent directly to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that two letters of recommendation, at least one of which should be from an academic referee, are sent by the referees under confidential cover to the PGIS.

Duly completed application should be forwarded to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS.

6.6 Processing of Applications

Applications are initially screened by the relevant Board of Study. Applications which are incomplete or carrying false information will be rejected at the screening process. Those who are eligible will be called for an Aptitude Test, and an additional subject-based test depending on the study area. The selection shall be based on academic merit and the performance at the test(s) and an interview conducted by the PGIS. The decision of the PGIS shall be final with regard to admission to any postgraduate programme.

6.7 Registration and Related Matters

An applicant who has been selected as a postgraduate student shall be required to register at the PGIS to follow the postgraduate programme. Originals of all certificates and a certified copy of English translation of the birth certificate should be produced before admission. The date of registration shall be specified by the PGIS. Registration is valid only for one academic year. At registration, students are required to make the relevant payment installment as specified in the registration letter. Further, the students should make arrangements to pay the subsequent installments on the due dates mentioned in the registration letter and renew the students ID.

Please refer to Section 5.7 for further details in respect of maintenance of student status in the PGIS.

6.8 Course Work and M.Sc. Research Component

Course work

The course work includes compulsory and optional courses, and consists of theory courses, and laboratory and/or field work and/or clinical work. For a theory course, one credit is equivalent to 15 hours of instruction. For laboratory work, field work and clinical work, where applicable, 30 - 45 hours of instruction is considered as one credit. One credit of independent study requires engagement for 100 notional hours while one credit of course work requires 50 notional hours.

Some programmes may require completion of preliminary courses, which are not considered for credit requirement of the programme and computation of GPA. Students may also take extra courses after paying the course fees to advance their knowledge with the consent of the relevant Board of Study.

In addition, students should attend the Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

■ Independent study

Masters Degrees offered by the PGIS requires completion of a compulsory Independent Study worth of 5 credits. The Independent Study should be carried out in consultation with a supervisor appointed by the relevant Board of Study on the recommendation of the Programme Coordinator.

The Independent Study consists of 3 major components:

1. A project proposal/ review, which includes an extensive literature review
2. Completion of a mini research project, which may include a laboratory component
3. A project report and an oral presentation on the mini research project/ review

Check the “Standard Operating Procedure for the Independent Study” available on the IQAC/PGIS webpage (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/qac.php>) for more details.

■ Research component of M.Sc. Degree

Masters degree candidates (SLQF Level 9) who obtain a minimum GPA of 3.00 for 30 credits of required course work are eligible to upgrade the registration status to M.Sc. Degree (SLQF Level 10).

M.Sc. candidates are required to carry out a research project at an academic/research/industrial institution where suitable facilities are available. The research component shall be equivalent to 30 credits; one credit of research is equivalent to work which is worth 100 notional hours. The title of the research project, place of work, and the supervisor(s) shall be approved by the PGIS prior to the commencement of the project. At least one of the supervisors shall be a member of the institution where major part of the research is carried out, and at least one of the supervisors shall be affiliated to the PGIS. Candidates should obtain the approval to carry out the research project by submitting the duly filled ‘M.Sc. Research Proposal Submission Form’ (Form 4.7.2A), downloadable from the PGIS website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk/>), within two months from the date of release of GPA.

■ Mid-term progress review of research work

After six months, the candidate shall present the progress of the research, which shall be reviewed by a panel appointed by the relevant Board of Study.

Composition of progress review panel:

1. Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study or his/her nominee (Chairperson of the panel)

(In the event that the Chairperson of the Board of Study is a supervisor or is not available, the Director or his nominee shall serve as the Chairperson of the panel)

2. Coordinator of the relevant M.Sc. programme
3. Two reviewers nominated by the relevant Board of Study
4. Supervisor(s) [as observer(s)]

Recommendation given at the mid-term progress review should be favorable in order to continue research.

The Panel may recommend, based on the progress of research, to upgrade the registration to M.Phil. degree.

If the candidate and the supervisor(s) wish to proceed with an upgrade (see section 6.12), the completed application for upgrade (Form 4.7.2.1A) should be submitted within one month from the date of the Mid-term Progress Review.

6.9 Examinations and Evaluation Procedure

Examination and evaluation procedure is similar to that of the PG Certificate and Diploma. Please refer to the Section 5.16 for details.

In addition, the M.Sc. candidate is required to submit a thesis based on the research conducted, which is evaluated by two thesis examiners appointed by the relevant Board of Study. If the examiners are satisfied with the standard of research, the candidate defends the thesis in an oral examination before a panel.

Composition of panel of examiners:

1. Chairman of the relevant Board of Study (Chairman)

(If the Chairman of the Board of Study is a supervisor, the Director or his nominee shall be the Chairman)

2. Three examiners including the two thesis examiners

(If the thesis examiner/s is/are not available, the relevant Board of Study shall nominate suitable person/s)

3. The Supervisor/s shall be present as observer/s

The panel of examiners will submit a report on the suitability of the candidate for the award of the degree. A candidate whose thesis is recommended for the award of the degree is required to make all corrections, revisions etc. as required by the Panel, if any, and resubmit the thesis to the PGIS. as stipulated in Section 6.11.A. If the oral exam is not defended satisfactorily, the candidate is allowed only one more attempt to repeat the oral examination (see section 6.11.B).

Finally, the candidate should submit to the PGIS the hard bound-copy of the thesis corrected by incorporating any suggestions and recommendations of examiners.

If a thesis is evaluated as major revision for two times, the Board of Study shall accept the evaluation or send the thesis for a 3rd examiner for evaluation.

6.10 Requirements for the Award of the Masters Degree/ M.Sc. Degree

The Masters Degree may be awarded to a candidate who has satisfied the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in Section 6.4,
- (ii) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the relevant programme,
- (iii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme,
- (iv) obtained at least a C in each course taken for credit and attained a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher for 30 credits of required course work and
- (v) attended the Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS.

However, a candidate who has not satisfied the requirement (IV) mentioned above, but has obtained a cumulative GPA in the range 2.75 - 2.99 for 25 credits of course work including all the compulsory courses is deemed to have completed the Postgraduate Diploma which will be awarded accordingly. The students should refer to the details of M.Sc. programme regarding the compulsory course work requirement at this exit point.

The Master of Science Degree may be awarded to a candidate who has satisfied the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in Section 6.4,
- (i) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the relevant programme,
- (ii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme,
- (iii) obtained at least a C in each course taken for credit and attained a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher for 30 credits of required course work,

- (iv) successfully completed Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS and
- (v) satisfactorily completed the research component, defend it an oral examination and submit a final hard-bound copy of the thesis and any other requirements, as specified by the PGIS

However, students who reach a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher for 30 credits of required course work but fail the research project are eligible for the Masters Degree and will be awarded accordingly.

6.11 The Effective Date of the Masters Degree/ M.Sc. Degree

The effective date of the degree should be a date after the expiry of the minimum duration of a given programme. The effective date of the Masters Degree shall be the date on which the last examination of the programme is held. The effective date of the M.Sc. Degree shall be determined as shown below.

If the Panel of Examiners determines that both the thesis submitted is of acceptable standard, and it was successfully defended in the oral examination, the effective date shall be determined as follows:

- A.** The oral examination is held within three months from the date of initial submission of the thesis
 - (i) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date of the oral examination.
 - (ii) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office one month after the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the hard-bound thesis.
 - (iii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of Examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the oral examination.
 - (iv) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office one month after the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of Examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the hard-bound thesis.
- B.** The oral examination is held after three months from the date of initial submission of the thesis due to no fault of the candidate
 - (i) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date on which three months have elapsed since the initial submission of the thesis.
 - (ii) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office one month after the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the hard-bound thesis .
 - (iii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of Examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date on which three months have elapsed since the initial submission of the thesis.
 - (iv) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office one month after the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of Examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the hard-bound thesis.

If the Panel of Examiners determines that the thesis submitted is acceptable with major corrections, then the candidate is required to resubmit the thesis to the PGIS office with all the required corrections made and go through the examination process again. The effective date shall be determined, after the evaluation of the resubmitted thesis, according to 6.11 (A) or 6.11 (B).

If the Panel of Examiners determines that the thesis submitted is of acceptable standards, but the oral examination must be repeated due to unsatisfactory defense, then the effective date will be determined by 6.11 (A) or 6.11 (B), based on the repeated oral examination. However, a candidate is allowed only one such attempt to repeat the oral examination for the same qualification (M.Sc. degree). The candidate who fails both attempts are eligible for the Masters Degree and will be awarded accordingly.

6.12 Transfer from M.Sc. To M.Phil. Degree (SLQF Level 11) Programme

After conducting research in the M.Sc. degree programme (SLQF Level 10) for a period of six months, students who have demonstrated excellent progress in research may apply through the supervisor for upgrading the registration to M.Phil. (SLQF Level 11). The completed application for upgrade (Form 4.7.2.1A) need to be submitted after the Mid-term progress review (see section 6.8, *Mid-term progress review of research work* described above). The M.Phil. qualification requires a total of 2 years of research worth of 60 credits (6000 notional hours).

6.13 Phasing out of study programme

From time to time, the PGIS may have to terminate some of its Masters and M.Sc. programmes due to various reasons. In such circumstances, the PGIS will conduct the programme until its conclusion for the final group of students. However, the PGIS will allow a grace period of three years after the termination of the programme for the students to repeat their examinations if needed, and complete the requirements of the degree. The students who fail to fulfil the requirement of the intended programme by the end of the grace period may be awarded a next possible qualification provided that they have fulfilled the requirement of the particular qualification.



**MASTER OF
PHILOSOPHY
AND DOCTOR
OF PHILOSOPHY
DEGREE
PROGRAMMES
[SLQF LEVELS 11, 12]**

07

7 MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE PROGRAMME [SLQF LEVELS 11, 12]

7.1 Introduction

A student registering for a degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)/ or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the PGIS shall be required to pursue his/her studies at the PGIS or at a university, research institute or any other recognized institution under the guidance of a supervisor/s appointed by the PGIS (see Section 7.8).

7.2 Full Time and Part Time Students

A full-time student shall be a person duly registered for an M.Phil./Ph.D. degree programme and engaged in research and related activities at least during the normal working hours of the week. According to SLQF guidelines, a full-time research student should spend 3000 notional hours per year for research and related activities. Therefore, those who are employed are required to obtain leave of absence from their work places in order to be eligible for registration under this category. Those who are unable to fulfil the above requirement are advised to register as a part-time student.

A part-time student shall be a person duly registered for an M.Phil./Ph.D. degree programme who should spend at least 1500 notional hours per year for research and related activities.

7.3 Admission Requirements

7.3.1 Admission Requirements for M.Phil. Degree Programme

- A.** The applicant should possess at least one of the following qualifications in the relevant subject area:
- (i) PG certificate (SLQF L7), diploma (SLQF L8), Masters Degree (SLQF L9), or M.Sc. degree (SLQF L10) from a university/institution recognized by the UGC
 - or*
 - (ii) a transfer from a M.Sc. Degree (SLQF L10) programme conducted by the PGIS as stated under Section 6.12
 - or*
 - (iii) a B.Sc. Honors/Special Degree (SLQF L6) from a university/institution recognized by the UGC with a GPA ≥ 3.0 ; if GPA < 3.0 , the candidate is required to pass a qualifying examination
 - or*
 - (iv) a B.Sc. Degree (SLQF L5) from a university/institution recognized by the UGC, subject to the following additional conditions:
 - If GPA ≥ 3.0 , passing a qualifying examination equivalent to SLQF L6 or L7 (refer to the Figure 4.1)
 - If GPA < 3.0 , completion of 20 credits of postgraduate courses with assignments with a GPA ≥ 3.0
 - or*
 - (v) any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the PGIS
 - and*
- B.** any other requirement/s as stipulated by the relevant Board of Study

*The relevant Board of Study shall arrange the qualifying examinations based on the core subject area to be covered by the student to gain eligibility to register for an M.Phil. degree. Students may also self-study the assigned course modules and should successfully complete the examinations arranged by the Board of Study.

7.3.2 Admission Requirements for Ph.D. Degree Programme

- A.** The applicant should possess at least one of the following qualifications in the relevant subject area:
- (i) a B.Sc. Special Degree (SLQF L6), PG Certificate (SLQF L7), Diploma (SLQF L8) or Masters Degree (SLQF L9) with a GPA ≥ 3.0 from a university/institution recognized by the UGC, provided that an independent study with a research component has been completed satisfactorily
 - or*
 - (ii) an M.Sc. Degree (SLQF L10) or an M.Phil. Degree (SLQF L11) from a university/institution recognized by the UGC
 - or*
 - (iii) a transfer from an M.Phil. Degree (SLQF L11) Programme conducted by the PGIS as stated under Section 7.13
 - or*
 - (iv) any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the PGIS
- and*
- B.** any other requirement/s as stipulated by the relevant Board of Study

7.4 Application Procedure

Applications are entertained from prospective students by the PGIS throughout the year. Every application for enrolment must be made in duplicate on the prescribed forms which can be downloaded from the PGIS website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk>). Duly completed application should be forwarded to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS. The application processing fee should be paid at the time of submission of the application.

7.5 Processing of Applications

Only completed applications with relevant documents (See guidelines given in the application) will be processed. The applications will be evaluated by the relevant Board of Study. Those which are incomplete or carrying false information shall be rejected. The applicants shall be informed of their acceptance/non-acceptance to the postgraduate programme for which admission was sought. The decision of the PGIS shall be final in the admission to any programme. However, if the proposal requires ethical approval (human & animal studies), student registration will be granted conditionally until an approval from the PGIS Ethics Committee is submitted to the Board of Study.

7.6 Registration and Related Matters

Date of registration

A person who has been accepted by the PGIS as a postgraduate student shall be required to register within a month to follow the relevant postgraduate programme of study (M.Phil./Ph.D.). The effective date of registration would be the date on which the duly completed application was received at the PGIS. A person who registers for an M.Phil. degree, at the first instance, can upgrade the registration to a Ph.D. after a minimum of one-year duration, on the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study (see section 7.13).

Continuation of registration

It shall be obligatory for each student to renew the registration every year until the completion of the programme of study.

Concurrent registration

A student who is registered for a postgraduate degree programme in the PGIS is not permitted to register

concurrently for another degree programme in the PGIS.

Withdrawal from a programme

A postgraduate student wishing to withdraw from the programme for which he/she is registered should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS through the research supervisor(s) and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study. The PGIS will retain 10% of the programme fee if the request for withdrawal is submitted within 3 weeks from the date of payment of fees. No refund will be made after this period. The paid amount will be fully refunded if the applicants make the request for refund before the commencement of the Programme.

Readmission

An M.Phil./Ph.D. student who fails to maintain his/her registration shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the selected programme of study. If he/she wishes to re-enter the programme, he/she must apply for readmission in accordance with the regulations in force at that time. However, there is no guarantee of readmission. The procedure for readmission shall be the same as for initial registration, including the payment of all prescribed fees.

Amendments to registration

Any amendments in the personal information as submitted at initial registration should be informed to the PGIS. A student who wishes to make amendments in the registration such as courses/subjects, thesis topic/title, supervisor/s and student status, should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS. All changes in registration must receive the approval of the research supervisor(s), Head of the Institution/Department/Laboratory concerned and the relevant Board of Study.

Postponement of registration

A student who desires to postpone his/her registration for a programme should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS through the research supervisor(s) and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study, giving reasons and the duration of postponement. Each such request shall be considered on its own merit by the relevant Board of Study of the PGIS.

Cancellation of registration

A student who desires to cancel his/her registration for a programme should do so in writing to the Director, PGIS through the research supervisor(s) and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study. A registration may be cancelled by the PGIS on the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study for the following reasons:

- (a) non-fulfilment of the course work requirement of an M.Phil./Ph.D. degree within a maximum period of two years from the date of registration,
- (b) non-payment of prescribed fees within the first six months of each year,
- (c) failure to submit two progress reports successively, or make two half-yearly progress review presentations successively, except during the period of thesis writing,
- (d) non-adherence to rules and regulations of the PGIS,
- (e) plagiarism and
- (f) unsatisfactory academic progress.

If the student wish to cancel his/her registration, he/she has to make a request through the supervisor/s.

Leave of absence from the programme

Leave of absence from the programme will not be granted under normal circumstances. However, leave may be granted under special circumstances on a written request made by the student through the supervisor/s and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study. A student on a split or/and sandwich programme may be released for a specified period to continue the programme in an outside collaborating laboratory/institute. However, the student should maintain the continuity of registration by paying the relevant registration fees and any other fees, if any.

7.7 Place of Research Work and Supervisors

A postgraduate student would normally be required to work in a laboratory/institution under the guidance of a supervisor/s approved by the relevant Board of Study. At least one of the supervisors should be from the institution where the major part of the research is carried out.

If the supervisor (s) of a research project is neither a member of the PGIS teaching panel nor a member of a Board of Study/academic staff member of the University of Peradeniya, a supervisor from the above said categories should be appointed as an internal supervisor to the project.

7.8 Duration of the Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy

Duration for the M.Phil. Degree

The minimum duration for

- (i) full-time candidates registered under 7.3.1 A (i), (iii), (iv) or (v) - two years
- (ii) full-time candidates registered under 7.3.1 A (ii) – three years including the time spent for the research component programme of the M.Sc. (SLQF-10)
- (iii) part-time candidates registered under 7.3.1. A (i), (iii), (iv) or (v) - three years

On a written request made by the student *to the Director, PGIS through the research supervisor(s) and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study*, he/she may be allowed to change over from being a full-time student to a part-time student and vice versa. The minimum period required for completing the remaining programme shall be decided by the PGIS.

The Maximum duration for MPhil Degree:

Full-time candidates – 6 Yrs.

Part-time candidates – 8 Yrs.

Duration for the Ph.D. Degree

The minimum duration for

- (i) full-time candidates registered directly - three years with a total of 9000 notional hours
- (ii) full-time candidates transferred from an M.Phil. programme - three years from the date of registration for the M.Phil. programme
- (iii) full-time candidates transferred from an M.Sc. to M.Phil. programme and subsequently transferred to a Ph.D. programme - four years
- (iv) part-time candidates - minimum 4.5 years with a total of 9000 notional hours

The maximum duration for

Full-time candidates – 8 Yrs.

Part-time candidates – 10 Yrs.

On a written request made by the student *to the Director, PGIS through the supervisor/s and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study*, he/she may be allowed to change over from being a full-time student to a part-time student and vice versa. The minimum period required for completing the remaining course shall be decided by the PGIS.

7.9 Examinations and Evaluation Procedure

On successful completion of the course work requirements (see Sections 7.10.1 & 7.10.2) the performance of a M.Phil./Ph.D. student on the research project shall be assessed based on the thesis and a seminar followed by an oral examination.

7.9.1 Initial Submission and Evaluation of Thesis

Three copies of the thesis in temporary binding should be submitted initially through supervisor/s and the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study to the Director, PGIS. The supervisor/s is/are expected to certify that the thesis is of acceptable standard as required by the PGIS by signing and forwarding the 'Initial Submission Form' (Form 5.11.1A) downloadable from the PGIS website: www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk.

The thesis shall be evaluated by two examiners at least one of whom shall be an examiner external to the place where the research work was carried out. In the case of Ph.D. theses, it is strongly recommended that at least one foreign examiner be appointed.

Each examiner will evaluate the temporarily-bound thesis, and send the evaluation report to the PGIS. If the thesis is so poorly written that evaluation cannot be done properly, it may be returned to the PGIS without evaluation. The evaluation report will include the final recommendation on the thesis as; (a) acceptable without revisions, (b) acceptable with minor revisions, (c) acceptable with major revisions or (d) rejected.

If the scientific content of the thesis is up to the standard of the respective degree and requires no revision, the thesis may be considered as 'acceptable'. If there are language/formatting errors and/or minor problems, the thesis may be considered as 'acceptable with minor revision'. If the scientific content of the thesis is not up to the standard of the respective degree but can be brought to the expected standards by either repeating some experiments and/or revising the thesis, the thesis may be considered as 'acceptable with major revisions'. Otherwise, the thesis may be considered as 'rejected'.

If major revisions of the thesis are recommended, three copies of the revised thesis should be submitted as indicated in Section 7.9.3 using 'Resubmission Form' (Form 5.11.1B) downloadable from the PGIS website: www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk. The supervisor/s is/are expected to certify that all the corrections/revisions have been made to the revised thesis as required by the examiners.

The Board of Study may submit the thesis to a third examiner if one of the examiners evaluated twice as major revisions.

7.9.2 Seminar and Oral examination (Thesis Defense)

If the thesis is accepted without revisions or with minor revisions as in (a) or (b) above, the oral examination will be conducted by a Panel of Examiners appointed by the PGIS. If major revisions are recommended as in (c) above, the oral examination will be held after the revised thesis is evaluated and recommended by the examiners as acceptable without further revision or acceptable with minor revisions.

Composition of panel of examiners:

1. Chairman of the relevant Board of Study (Chairman)

(If the Chairman of the Board of Study is a supervisor, the Director or his nominee shall be the Chairman)

2. Three examiners including the two thesis examiners

(If the thesis examiner/s is/are not available, the relevant Board of Study shall nominate suitable person/s)

3. The Supervisor/s shall be present as observer/s

The panel of examiners will submit a report on the suitability of the candidate for the award of the degree. A candidate whose thesis is recommended for the award of the degree is required to make all corrections, revisions etc. as required by the Panel, if any, and resubmit the thesis to the PGIS as stipulated in Section 7.9.3. If the oral exam is not defended satisfactorily, the candidate is allowed only one more attempt to repeat the oral examination (see section 7.9.2).

7.9.3 Final submission of thesis

Three or more copies of the thesis (one copy to the PGIS, one each for each supervisor and one for the student) in the hardbound form, prepared according to the PGIS guidelines, should be submitted through the Supervisor/s and the Chairman of the relevant Board of Study to the PGIS within the specified period of time as recommended by the panel of examiners for consideration by the Results Board. When the candidate submits the thesis, the supervisor/s is/are expected to certify that corrections, revisions etc., if any, have been properly addressed by the candidate by duly signing the 'Final Submission Form' (Form 5.11.3A) downloadable from the PGIS website: www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk.

7.10 Requirements for the Completion of the Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy

7.10.1 Course work requirements

All M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates should meet the following requirements:

- I. He/She should successfully earn a minimum of 3.0 GPA for four credits of course work at postgraduate level for M.Phil. degree and six credits of course work at postgraduate level for Ph.D. degree, as recommended and arranged by the respective Board of Study. In addition, Boards of Study may recommend successful completion of selected courses of B.Sc. special degree to fulfil deficiencies in the relevant research area.
- II. He/She should attain a minimum standard in scientific writing acceptable to the PGIS. The relevant courses will be conducted by the PGIS.

The requirements mentioned under I and II above should be completed within a maximum period of two years from the date of registration. Those candidates registered under 7.3.1A (i) and (ii) may be exempted from some or all the requirements mentioned under I and II above as recommended by the relevant Board of Study. To follow the above-mentioned courses, M.Phil./Ph.D. students are required to produce the duly completed 'Course Work Requirement Form' (Form 5.7.1. IA). The Form 5.7.1.IB should be completed and submitted to certify the completion of requirements mentioned under 7.10 above. Both Forms 5.7.1. IA and 5.7.1. IB are downloadable from the PGIS website: www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk.

7.10.2 Research work requirements

He/She should engage in full-time research for a minimum period of two years for M.Phil. degree and three years for Ph.D. degree, or its equivalent on a part-time basis under the guidance of a supervisor/s as recommended by the relevant Board of Study, and submit a thesis based on the research carried out.

Half-yearly Progress Review of Research Work

Progress review presentations

The full-time students are required to present the progress and the future plan of the research work bi-annually (in June and December), and the part-time students annually. The progress presentation will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the relevant Board of Study.

Composition of progress review panel:

1. Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study (Chairperson of the Panel)
(Where the Chairman of the Board of Study is a supervisor, the Director or his nominee shall be the Chairman)
2. Secretary of the relevant Board of Study
3. Two reviewers
(The relevant Board of Study shall nominate suitable persons)
4. The supervisor/s shall be present as observer/s

Progress reports

Students should submit the progress reports based on the progress review presentation in the prescribed form. The reports should be submitted within two weeks from the date of progress presentation. The reports should be forwarded with the recommendation of supervisor/s to the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study, who shall forward the same to the Director/PGIS with his/her recommendation.

If progress review presentations are not made or progress reports are not submitted in two consecutive occasions, based on the recommendation of the supervisor(s), candidate's registration for the relevant degree would be terminated.

7.11 Requirements for the Award of the Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy

Award of the M.Phil. Degree

The M.Phil. degree may be awarded to a candidate who has successfully completed the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in Section 7.3,
- (ii) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the M.Phil. programme,
- (iii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme (see Section 7.8),
- (iv) attended Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS and
- (v) satisfactorily completed course work and research work requirements (see Sections 7.9 and 7.10),
- (vi) Present research work at two conferences and publish the work as conference abstracts/ proceedings,
- (vii) Publish research work in at least one refereed journal

Award of the Ph.D. Degree

The Ph.D. degree may be awarded to a candidate who has successfully completed the following requirements:

- (i) admission requirements as set out in Section 7.3.2,
- (ii) accepted by the PGIS as a candidate for the M.Phil. programme,
- (iii) duly registered and paid fees for the prescribed duration of the programme (see Section 7.8),
- (iv) attended Scientific Writing Workshop conducted by the PGIS and
- (v) satisfactorily completed course work and research work requirements (see Sections 7.9 and 7.10).
- (vi) Present research work at two conferences and publish the work as conference abstracts/ proceedings,
- (vii) Publish research work in at least two refereed journals

7.12 Criteria for the Effective Date of the Master of Philosophy/Doctor of Philosophy

The effective date of the M.Phil./Ph.D. degree shall be determined as given below.

The effective date of the degree should be a date after the expiry of the minimum duration of a given programme.

If the Panel of Examiners determines that both the thesis initially submitted and the oral examination are of acceptable standards, the effective date shall be as follows:

- (a) The oral examination held within three months from the date of initial submission of the thesis
 - (i) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date of the oral examination.
 - (ii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office

within one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the oral examination.

- (iii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office after one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the thesis.
- (b) The oral examination held after three months from the date of initial submission of the thesis due to no fault of the candidate
- (i) If the thesis is accepted without corrections and handed over in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination, the effective date shall be the date on which three months have elapsed since the initial submission of the thesis.
- (ii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office within one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date on which three months have elapsed since the initial submission of the thesis.
- (iii) If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and submitted in hard-bound form to the PGIS office after one month of the oral examination with all the corrections made by the candidate as required by the Panel of examiners and certified by the supervisor(s), the effective date shall be the date of the final submission of the thesis.

If the Panel of Examiners determines that the thesis submitted is acceptable with major corrections, then the candidate is required to resubmit the revised thesis to the PGIS with all the corrections made. The effective date shall be determined, after the evaluation of revised thesis, according to the procedures stipulated in section 7.12.

If the Panel of Examiners determines that the thesis submitted is of acceptable standard, but the oral examination is to be repeated due to unsatisfactory defense, then the effective date will be determined by section 7.12, based on the repeat oral examination.

However, a candidate is allowed only two such attempt to repeat the oral examination for the same qualification (M.Phil./Ph.D. degree).

If the oral examination is not of acceptable standard for the Ph.D. degree even after repeat attempts, but is of acceptable standard for an M.Phil. degree, the Panel of Examiners may recommend the award of an M.Phil. degree.

If a thesis is evaluated as major revision for two times , the Board of Study shall accept the evaluation or send the thesis for a 3rd examiner for evaluation.

7.13 Transfer from Master of Philosophy to Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programme

A student who has been registered for a M.Phil. degree programme (SLQF Level 11) and who has made excellent progress may, at his/her request through the supervisor(s) and upon the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study, be permitted to transfer the registration to a Ph.D. degree programme (SLQF Level 12), which requires a total of 3 years of research worth of 90 credits (9000 notional hours). A student may apply for such a transfer after completion of at least one year of the M.Phil. programme, by submitting the completed application for upgrade (Form 5.10A).

OCCASIONAL STUDENTS

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8 OCCASIONAL STUDENTS

8.1 Introduction

Occasional study programme is a short learning scheme to support the persons wanting to take a few taught courses or do a brief research project on a particular field. As such, the occasional students are not registered for any of the postgraduate degree programmes of the PGIS. However, you may receive an academic record for all the courses completed successfully. Further, if you wish to do a postgraduate study, you can use these academic records if relevant, apply for the next qualification. Please note that, you may need prerequisites for the courses that you are interested in. Then, you first have to complete those courses before you can enroll in the course/s of your interest. You have to pay for every course that you plan to register for in advance, before registration can take place.

Occasional study programme provides an ideal opportunity for the employees to upgrade and broaden their knowledge in a chosen field to enhance the career goals. This programme will also help you expand your professional capacity, learn something new, or even earn academic credit to transfer towards a degree. International students are also welcome to join the PGIS as occasional students to follow taught courses or to do a brief research project. There is a possibility of offering some courses on online mode.

To apply for a place as an occasional student, send the prescribed application forms which can be downloaded from the PGIS website (<http://www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk>). Duly completed application should be forwarded to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS. The application processing fee should be paid at the time of submission of the application.

Two categories of such students are identified. They are those who:

- (a) would follow course unit/s from a programme conducted by the PGIS and/or
- (b) are attached to the research projects administered by the PGIS or by Teaching Panel Members of the PGIS

8.2 Qualifications

On the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study, the status of occasional student of the PGIS can be conferred on candidates with the following qualifications:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree in Science or any other equivalent or higher qualification from a university/institution recognized by the UGC, or
- (b) Any other qualification acceptable to the PGIS



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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9 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

9.1 Introduction

This section of the student handbook provides you with an introduction to postgraduate degree programmes available in the Postgraduate Institute of Science. Whether you are a recent graduate eager to continue your academic journey or a working professional seeking to enhance your qualifications, Postgraduate Institute of Science, Sri Lanka offers a diverse range of opportunities for your postgraduate studies.

In this guide, you will explore the various types of postgraduate degree programmes, including Master's and Ph.D. options, the admission criteria and application process and funding opportunities. With a rich blend of tradition and innovation, Postgraduate Institute of Science is poised to provide you with a rewarding and intellectually stimulating postgraduate experience.

9.2 Postgraduate Degree Programmes

Postgraduate degree programmes in Sri Lanka offer an enriching and transformative educational experience for those looking to advance their knowledge, skills, and careers. These programmes are designed to provide students with the opportunity to deepen their expertise in a specific field of study or engage in advanced research and academic exploration. Whether you are a recent graduate seeking to specialize in your chosen discipline or a working professional aiming to enhance your qualifications, Postgraduate Institute of Science offers a diverse range of postgraduate options to cater to your educational aspirations.

Masters Degree programmes

These programmes typically require one to two years of full-time study and provide in-depth knowledge and skills in a specific subject area. They often involve coursework, research, and, in some cases, practical training or internships.

Ph.D. Degree programmes

Ph.D. programmes offer the highest level of academic achievement and are designed for individuals interested in conducting original research in their chosen field. Completing a Ph.D. in Sri Lanka involves several years of research, culminating in the submission and defense of a doctoral thesis.

9.3 Application for Postgraduate Degrees

Admission criteria

The eligibility criteria for postgraduate programs may vary depending on the Degree programme. However, common admission requirements include:

A relevant undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification

Satisfactory academic performance, often indicated by a minimum GPA or percentage

Letters of recommendation

Application process

The application process typically involves:

Selecting a programme that aligns with your academic and career goals

Completing the application form and submitting the required documents

Preparing for interviews or additional assessments, if required

Receiving admission decisions and, if accepted, proceeding with enrollment

9.4 Funding Opportunities

Sri Lanka offers various scholarships, grants, and financial aid options to support postgraduate students. These can be provided by the government, universities, research institutes, and external organizations. Explore these opportunities to help fund your postgraduate education.

9.5 VISA Application Procedure

A foreign student selected to study in Sri Lanka as a regular, casual or exchange student or a visiting scholar of the Institute should obtain Residence Visa to study or undertake research in Sri Lanka. Initially foreign students or visiting scholars will be provided with an Entry Visa for a period of one month or as approved by the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka (DIE). Once a student or a visiting scholar enrolls with the degree programme or engages in a research project his/her Entry Visa should be converted to Residence Visa.

9.5.1 Entry Visa

Upon the selection of a foreign candidate to follow a degree programme or a visiting scholar, the PGIS issues a letter to the Controller of the DIE, Colombo requesting to issue an Entry Visa for the candidate or the visiting scholar. A candidate or visiting scholar should submit the following documents to the Assistant Registrar of the PGIS by posts or as email attachments to process the Entry Visa:

- (i) The bio page of the passport (the Passport should have the validity at least for a period of six months from the date of application for Entry Visa);
- (ii) Police or security clearance report for the candidate or visiting scholar which had been obtained from his/her country of residence;
- (iii) A passport size photograph of the candidate or visiting scholar obtained within 03 months from the date of application for Entry Visa (online photograph);
- (iv) Payment Receipt of the course fee as mentioned in the letter of Registration
- (v) A covering letter written by the candidate or the visiting scholar to the Director/PGIS, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka informing his/her intended dates of entry to Sri Lanka and requesting Director/PGIS to process his/her Entry Visa application.

A candidate or a visiting scholar is required to submit the above information at least two months before his/her intended date of entry into Sri Lanka.

The Assistant Registrar of the PGIS will submit duly completed Entry Visa application documents of a candidate or a visiting scholar to the DIE through the University Grants Commission and the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Sri Lanka for approval.

Once approval is granted for Entry Visa, the DIE will fax the Entry Visa of the student or the visiting scholar to the Sri Lankan 'Embassy/Consular Office of the relevant country. The Assistant Registrar of the PGIS will send an email notification to the student or the visiting scholar requesting him/her to collect his/her Entry Visa from the Sri Lankan Embassy/Consular Office of the relevant country.

9.5.2 Residence Visa

Once enrolled in a degree programme or research project at the PGIS, a foreign student/ visiting scholar is required to convert his/her Entry Visa to Residence Visa (Student Category) before the date of expiry of the Entry Visa.

The PGIS should submit the following documents to the DIE to convert his/her Entry Visa to Residence Visa through the UGC and the Ministry of Education.

Since the approval process takes considerable time, the student/ visiting scholar is required to submit the copies

of same set of documents in person to the DIE to extend his/her Residence Visa with the relevant payment.

- (i) The covering letter issued by the Director/PGIS to the DIE through UGC and MOHE;
- (ii) Certified copy of the passport (the bio page) of the student or visiting scholar;
- (iii) Duly completed Application for recommendation of issuing/ extension of residence Visa issued by the DIE downloadable from the DIE website <http://www.immigration.gov.lk> with recommendation of the Director/PGIS and the Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya;
- (iv) Landing Entry/ Learning Entry Visa of Applicant;
- (v) Duly completed application for residence Visa issued by the DIE downloadable from the DIE website <http://www.immigration.gov.lk>;
- (vi) Health Protection Plan (HPP) issued by the Health Assessment Centre of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Sri Lanka;
- (vii) The form with the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board of Study for the extension

Residence Visa is issued for a period of one year at a time and can be renewed annually with the provision of justification and evidence of study and research. An applicant is required to pay the Residence Visa fee to the Visa Counter at the time of application.

For more information, please visit the website of the DIE: <http://www.immigration.gov.lk/>

Health Protection Plan (BPP)

The Health Protection Plan (HPP) issued by the Health Assessment Centre of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Sri Lanka is mandatory for the application of Residence Visa in Sri Lanka. An applicant is required to apply for HPP within seven (7) days from the date of entry into Sri Lanka. An appointment can be made online through the website of the Immigration Health Unit (IHU). Under the HPP, an applicant of Residence Visa is screened for diseases such as Tuberculosis, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Filariasis. As given in the relevant website of the Ministry, a foreign student/ visiting scholar is entitled to receive the following benefits under the HPP: Emergency care, primary out-patient care and treatment for diseases identified in the health assessment in government hospitals. A fee is charged for the HPP and cash payment in LKR is accepted only at the IHU. The renewal of the HPP is required for extension of Residence Visa annually. For more information, please visit the website of the IHU: <https://www.health.gov.lk/IHU>.

9.5.3 Extension of residence Visa

The PGIS should submit the following documents to the DIE to convert his/her Entry Visa to Residence Visa through the UGC and the Ministry of Education.

Since the approval process takes considerable time the student/ visiting scholar is required to submit the copies of same set of documents in person to the DIE to extend his/her Residence Visa.

- (i) The covering letter issued by the Director/PGIS to the DIE with the recommendation from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya;
- (ii) Certified copies of the passport (the bio page) of the student or visiting scholar and the page of the current Residence Visa;
- (iii) Duly completed Application for recommendation of issuing/ extension of Residence Visa issued by the DIE downloadable from the DIE website <http://www.immigration.gov.lk> with recommendation of the Director/PGIS and the Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya;
- (iv) Renewal of Health Protection Plan (HPP) issued by the Health Assessment Centre of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Sri Lanka;
- (v) Duly completed application form for Residence Visa issued by the DIE downloadable from the DIE website <http://www.immigration.gov.lk>;
- (vi) The form with the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board of Study for the extension

A foreign student is required to submit documents for extension of Residence Visa two months before the date of expiry of the current Residence Visa to the Director of the PGIS with a covering letter indicating his/her progress of study/research and his/her tentative work plan for the next year with recommendation from his/her supervisor/s.

9.6 Studying and Living in Sri Lanka

■ *Cost of living in Sri Lanka*

Studying in Sri Lanka is known for its affordability, especially when compared to many Western countries. The cost of living in Sri Lanka is relatively low, making it an attractive destination for international students on a budget. Accommodation, transportation, and food are reasonably priced, allowing students to maintain a comfortable lifestyle without excessive financial burden.

■ *Student life in Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka offers an engaging and dynamic student life. The diverse and multicultural student community fosters a sense of belonging and encourages cross-cultural interactions. There are numerous clubs, societies, and student organizations where students can connect and participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities. The country's rich cultural heritage also means that there are plenty of opportunities to explore traditional music, dance, and local festivals, providing a unique and unforgettable student experience.

■ *Healthcare and safety in Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka places a strong emphasis on healthcare and safety for its residents and international students. The country has a well-developed healthcare system with modern hospitals and medical facilities. Health insurance is typically a requirement for international students, ensuring access to quality healthcare. Sri Lanka is also considered a safe destination for students.

■ *Cultural experience in Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka's cultural experience is a highlight for international students. The country's rich history, diverse ethnic groups, and various religious traditions create a vibrant and colorful tapestry. Students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in local customs, traditional festivals, and historic sites. The island's stunning natural beauty, including lush forests, pristine beaches, and wildlife reserves, adds to the cultural experience. Whether exploring ancient temples, savoring local cuisine, or participating in cultural celebrations, students in Sri Lanka will find themselves surrounded by a rich and immersive cultural environment that enriches their academic journey



INDUSTRIAL AND ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMMES

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10 INDUSTRIAL AND ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMMES

10.1 PGIS Industrial Support Programme

Core industrial oriented research and development areas of PGIS

- Mineral based value-added products
- Pharmaceuticals and healthcare products
- Agricultural and Food product development
- Cosmetics and Nutraceuticals
- Packaging solutions
- Natural products
- Waste to products, waste treatment and waste minimization technologies
- Air and water purification
- Agricultural and Food product development
- Smart devices and sensors
- Data science solutions and Big Data Analysis
- Polymer Technology
- Smart textiles
- Energy storage and harvesting
- Analytical Equipment and Instrument Manufacturing and Maintenance

Research engagement models

Invest on already competed project/product to commercialize

Investors are invited to invest on already completed projects with commercial potential in order to bring the project to next level of commercialization.

Fund a research assistant

The industry or investor is allowed to submit a research proposal or research idea. PGIS can provide suitable research assistant to work full time on project subjecting to research agreements prepared case by case. The research assistant can be an M.Phil. student working full time for minimum 2 years, PhD student working full time minimum for 3 years or M.Sc. student working on 1 year research project.

Client R & D projects

3-12 months research and development projects can be provided to PGIS. The PGIS expert team of the relevant area will evaluate and have initial discussions with the client. Then, PGIS will develop a research proposal with inputs of the client. When the client is satisfied with the proposal, PGIS will start the project. Please note that PGIS is taking a research engagement fee to develop a research proposal which will be waved off after engaging with the project.

10.2 Short Courses/Training Programmes/Workshops

The PGIS routinely conducts conferences, short courses, in-service training programmes, workshops, seminars, etc. of national and global importance. The PGIS advertises these programmes on the PGIS website: www.pgis.lk from time to time. The Institute also conducts tailor-made training programmes depending on the demand.

10.3 Scientific and Industry Consultancy Services

The PGIS also offers scientific consultancy services in various disciplines of science to the local industry and public/private sector institutions. The relevant application form can be downloaded from the PGIS website; www.pgis.pdn.ac.lk.

10.4 Outreach Activities

The outreach activities include public lectures, newspaper/magazine articles, TV/radio programmes and camps/visits throughout the country for the dissemination of scientific information. In addition, advice, consultation, guidance and scientific/laboratory services are provided to industry and other organizations/institutions on request.



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

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11 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

11.1 Introduction

Within our research projects and collaborative programmes, we embark on interdisciplinary journeys aimed at addressing pressing issues across various fields. Through partnerships and joint efforts, we strive to advance knowledge, develop innovative solutions, and make tangible contributions to the betterment of society and the environment. Each Board of Study carry out number of research projects relevant to demanding fields in each discipline.

11.2 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

The research in the fields of molecular biology and biochemistry includes areas, each bearing its own profound implications for science and society. These areas focus on from molecular characterization of oral microbes to understand their impact on oral hygiene to hydrolytic enzymes, inhibitors of proteases and other digestive enzymes, anti-obesity agents and bioactive compounds which have potential application in medicine. For our agricultural endeavors, we study beneficial nitrogen fixing rhizobia and look into the genes of important agronomic traits of rice. As we commit to sustainability, we explore the remarkable world of biodegrading enzymes derived from the microscopic powerhouses of the microbial realm.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Hydrolytic enzymes and Protease inhibitors from plants and microorganisms

Molecular characterization of human oral pathogens

Genetic diversity of rhizobia

Digestive enzyme inhibitors and anti-obesity agents from Sri Lankan flora

Plant hormone biosynthesis and signaling pathway in rice with desirable agronomic traits

Bioactive compounds from plants and animals

Hormonal signaling pathways

11.3 Biomedical Sciences

The research in the field of biomedical sciences includes exploring a diverse range of topics that hold the potential to revolutionize human health and well-being. From the precise world of diagnostic clinical biochemistry to the intricacies of molecular medicine, this field offers a gateway to unlocking the secrets of life's most fundamental processes. In the quest for comprehensive health, scientists investigate parasites and zoonotic diseases, striving to safeguard both human and animal populations. The world of bioinstrumentation provides cutting-edge tools to advance diagnostics and treatment, enhancing our capabilities to understand and combat diseases. We delve into clinical research on diabetes mellitus and lipid profiles, addressing pressing issues in modern healthcare. Simultaneously, we seek out the treasures hidden within plant secondary metabolites, evaluating their bioactivity for potential therapeutic applications. The exploration of immunological responses and the development of receptor- and enzyme-based biosensors pave the way for groundbreaking diagnostic and treatment modalities.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Diagnostic clinical biochemistry

Molecular medicine

Parasites and zoonotic diseases

Bioinstrumentation

Clinical research on diabetes mellites and lipid profile

11.4 Chemical Sciences

The research in the field of chemical sciences includes exploring various topics that promise to shape the future of our world. Bioactive natural products reveal the hidden treasures of the natural world, holding the potential to revolutionize medicine and industry. As stewards of the environment, we design sensors to detect and mitigate environmental pollutants while pioneering innovations in medical diagnostics. Electrochemical research, ranging from the enchanting realm of conducting polymers to the sophisticated technology of liquid crystal displays and electrocatalysis, opens doors to groundbreaking applications in electronics and sustainable energy. At the nanoscale, we venture into the world of nanomaterials, harnessing their unique properties for transformative technologies. Solar cells emerge as beacons of clean energy, paving the way for a sustainable future. The intricate domains of surface and solid-state chemistry illuminate our understanding of materials' fundamental properties. In the laboratory, synthetic organic chemistry sparks innovation, enabling the creation of novel compounds with limitless potential. We also dedicate our efforts to the treatment of industrial effluents and waste, seeking environmentally sound solutions to preserve the world we inhabit.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Bioactive natural products

Development of sensors for environmental pollutants and for medical use

Electrochemical research: conducting polymers, liquid crystal display technology, electrocatalysis, etc.

Nanomaterials

Solar cells

Surface and Solid-State Chemistry

Synthetic organic chemistry

Treatment of industrial effluents and waste

Nanotechnology for food, agriculture, energy storage, environmental remediation, drug delivery

Crystal Engineering & mechanochemistry

Nanotechnology for advanced textiles

Clay-polymer nanocomposites

Dye-sensitized solar cells, fuel cells, photo-electrochemical solar cell, supercapacitors

Value addition to local minerals through nanotechnology

Chronic kidney disease of unknown origin prevailing in some agricultural parts of Sri Lanka

Transparent conducting oxide 1-D nanomaterials

Electronically conducting polymers

Advanced electroanalytical chemistry

Water quality modeling

Photochemical and photoelectrochemical aspects of semiconductor based composite systems

11.5 Earth Sciences

The research in the field of Earth sciences includes exploring a range of topics with profound implications for our planet and society. The exploration of minerals for industry is an integral part of sustainable development, providing the resources that power our modern world. Water resources investigation and research on water

quality play a pivotal role in ensuring a sustainable and clean water supply for both human and environmental needs. Disaster management and mitigation strategies are crucial for safeguarding communities against natural and man-made catastrophes. Research on the color enhancement of gemstones bridges the worlds of geology and aesthetics, adding value to these precious natural treasures. The application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) empowers us to make informed decisions in environmental management, engineering, disaster response, land use planning, and urban development. Environmental impact assessment research guides responsible development and safeguards ecosystems. Finally, the exploration for mineral fuels is essential for meeting our energy needs while considering environmental and economic sustainability.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Exploration of minerals for industrial applications

Investigation and evaluation of water resources and water quality research

Disaster management and mitigation strategies

Research on color enhancement of gemstones

Application of GIS in environmental management, disaster response, and land-use planning

Environmental impact assessment for sustainable development

Exploration of mineral fuels with environmental considerations

Geological evolution of Sri Lanka's hard rock terrain

Paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental research

Geochemical investigations targeting environmental remediation

Monitoring and remediation of environmental pollution using geological materials, focusing on emerging contaminants

Mars analog studies with serpentinite occurrences in Southern Sri Lanka

Geoarchaeological preservation efforts in Sri Lanka

Heavy mineral sand exploration in coastal zones

Strategic exploration of critical and strategic metals and minerals in igneous and meta-igneous formations

Seismicity-induced potential landslide disaster risk assessment in the Kotmale reservoir area, Sri Lanka

11.6 Environmental Science

The research in the field of Environmental Science includes some of the most pressing challenges facing our planet. Pollution studies take center stage, as we investigate the intricate web of environmental contaminants. The management of urban and semi-urban solid waste becomes a paramount concern as our cities grow. Understanding biodiversity depletion and its consequences, including the complex challenges of human-wildlife conflict, is crucial for the conservation of our planet's unique ecosystems. Demographic and employment trends, as well as resource depletion, are deeply intertwined with social impacts, leading to comprehensive studies on sustainable resource management. The development of tourism, while economically promising, demands meticulous examination due to its multifaceted effects on society, culture, and the environment. Research in natural resource depletion, sustainable development, and environmental management provides a roadmap for responsible stewardship of our planet's resources. As the world seeks cleaner, more sustainable energy sources, researchers are at the forefront of exploring alternative energy sources and biofuels, guiding the transition to a greener future.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Pollution studies encompassing,

Air pollution in urban and semi-urban areas in relation to volume of vehicular traffic, and smoke stack output of industrial and power plants, and in rural areas in relation to agricultural practices, and livestock management,

Wetland pollution due to agricultural fertilizers, industrials effluents and other anthropogenic activities, and bioremediation,

Management of urban and semi-urban solid waste

Biodiversity depletion and human-wildlife conflict

Demographic and employment trends and resource depletion, and their social impacts

Tourism development and its social, cultural and environment effects

Natural resources depletion, sustainable development and environment management

Alternate energy sources and biofuels

Undeveloped and under-developed natural resources for human use and export

11.7 Mathematics

The research at the Board of Study in Mathematics encompasses a wide range of critical disciplines that significantly enhance efficiency, optimize processes, and drive innovation across various industries. This research aims to explore the interplay among these mathematical frameworks and their applications in addressing complex real-world challenges. By integrating the strengths of these disciplines, the Board of Study endeavors to uncover hidden patterns, develop sophisticated algorithms, and enhance decision-making processes, ultimately bridging the gap between theory and practice. This approach fosters a deeper understanding of how mathematics can inform modern decision-making, optimize resource allocation, and lead to more informed, data-driven solutions in an ever-evolving world.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Optimization Theory & Operations Research

Industrial Mathematics

Financial Mathematics & Stock Market

Discrete Mathematics

Mathematical Modeling

Computational Mathematics

Mathematical Cryptography

Pure Mathematics

11.8 Study in Physics

The research in the field of Study in Physics include research embarking on a multifaceted journey, delving into the exploration of organic and inorganic materials for solar cell applications, the utilization of local clay and ceramic materials to enhance the quality of construction products, the development of ionically conducting materials for fuel cells and batteries, the investigation of polymers for artificial muscles, and the crucial realms of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiology, and Dosimetry. As we strive for a more sustainable and technologically advanced future, the relentless pursuit of better, cleaner, and more efficient materials and processes is essential. In this interdisciplinary study, we aim to not only explore the fundamental properties of these materials but also uncover innovative applications, pushing the boundaries of energy generation, construction materials, energy storage, healthcare, and radiation-based therapies.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Study of organic/inorganic materials for solar cell applications

Study of local clay/ceramic materials for better quality tiles/bricks and other products

Ionically conducting materials for application in fuel cells and batteries

Study of polymers suitable for artificial muscles

Diagnostic Radiology

Therapeutic Radiology

Dosimetry

11.9 Plant Sciences

The research in the field of Plant Sciences span a diverse array of disciplines within the realm of plant science and ecology, with a primary focus on understanding and addressing various challenges and phenomena crucial to the health and sustainability of ecosystems. Through rigorous investigation and innovative methodologies, we delve into plant pathology, exploring the intricate interactions between pathogens and plants to mitigate diseases and enhance crop productivity. Concurrently, our exploration extends to the intricacies of plant reproductive biology and breeding, aiming to harness genetic diversity for improved agricultural outcomes and ecosystem resilience. Additionally, we delve into the nuanced dynamics of forest ecosystems, from the ecology of wet and dry zones to the restoration of degraded habitats and the troubling phenomenon of forest die-back. Our research encompasses the pivotal role of rhizobiology, soil fertility, and management in sustaining plant health and ecosystem vitality. Moreover, we delve into microbiology, plant systematics, and phylogenetics, unraveling the complexities of biodiversity conservation and the preservation of wild crop relatives. Complementing these efforts, we investigate postharvest technologies to minimize food loss and maximize the longevity of perishable produce. Furthermore, we scrutinize the ecological ramifications of invasive alien plants, striving to mitigate their impact and preserve native biodiversity. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and a commitment to scientific rigor, we endeavor to advance knowledge and promote sustainable practices for the benefit of ecosystems and societies alike.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Plant pathology

Food and Nutrition

Plant reproductive biology and plant breeding

Ecology of wet and dry zone forest ecosystems

Restoration ecology (restoration of degraded habitats) and Forest die-back

Rhizobiology, Soil fertility and soil management

Plant systematics and Phylogenetics

Microbiology

Biodiversity conservation and management

Wild crop relatives and conservation of their germplasm

Postharvest technology of fruits, vegetables, cut foliate and flowers

Seed biology

Invasion of alien exotic plants

11.10 Science Education

The research in the field of Science Education is dedicated to advancing science and mathematics education across a spectrum of disciplines, with a particular emphasis on Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Mathematics, along with IT, Agriculture, Environmental Science, and Earth Science. Through collaborative efforts and innovative methodologies, we aim to enhance teaching practices, curriculum development, and educational policies to foster deeper understanding and engagement among learners. In Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Mathematics, our investigations delve into effective pedagogical approaches, conceptual frameworks, and assessment strategies to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for success in scientific

inquiry. Additionally, we explore the integration of Information Technology (IT) tools and resources to enrich learning experiences and facilitate access to diverse educational materials. Moreover, our research extends to the realms of Agriculture, Environmental Science, and Earth Science. By leveraging interdisciplinary perspectives and evidence-based practices, we strive to empower educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to cultivate a scientifically literate and mathematically proficient society capable of addressing complex challenges and driving innovation.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Science and Mathematics education related research mainly in the four major subject areas, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics, IT, Agriculture, Environmental Science, Earth Science

11.11 Statistics and Computer Science

The research in the field of Statistics and Computer Science spans computer science, statistics, and data analysis, focusing on advanced methodologies for complex challenges. Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) and Fuzzy Modeling are fundamental tools for modeling intricate systems and extracting meaningful patterns. Image Processing enhances quality and automates analysis in medical imaging, remote sensing, and computer vision. Database Systems and Web Technologies enable efficient data management and user-friendly interfaces, while expertise in Computer Networks ensures reliable communication. In statistical modeling, we specialize in Mixed and Ridge Regression, alongside Inference on Exponential Families, Categorical, Time Series, Spatial, and Multivariate Analysis. Through collaboration, we drive innovation for real-world impact.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Artificial neural networks and fuzzy modeling

Image processing and analysis

Database systems

Web technologies

Computer networks

Distributed systems

Mixed regression and ridge regression estimation

Inference on exponential family of distributions

Categorical data analysis

Time series analysis

Spatial analysis

Multivariate analysis (Manova, principal component, cluster, factor, discriminant, canonical, correlation)

11.12 Zoological Sciences

Research in Zoological Sciences fosters a deeper appreciation for the intricate connections between all living organisms and a balance between humans and nature while striving to bridge scientific knowledge with practical applications such as biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, sustainable agriculture, and animal and human health. Environmental Zoology focuses on systematics, evolutionary relationships, animal behavior, impact of habitat loss, climate change, and pollution on wildlife, strategies to protect endangered species, sustainable environmental management and wildlife preservation. Medical Zoology focuses on animals that impact human health, particularly in relation to the transmission of diseases. This field examines how various animal species, including insects, rodents, and other vectors, play a role in spreading infectious and investigate the biology and behavior of these animals to develop strategies for controlling disease outbreaks. We also explore Zoonotic diseases, providing critical insights for both disease prevention and public health management. Research in Applied Zoology explores numerous aspects of animal behavior,

ecology, genetics, diseases and physiology to inform conservation efforts, improve pest control and livestock management, develop sustainable agricultural practices, and enhance both animal and human health.

Current research programmes/ collaborations:

Systematics and Evolutionary Biology

Wildlife Conservation and Management

Ecology and Environmental Science

Marine Biology

Ethology

Medical Entomology

Vector Biology

Agricultural Entomology and Pest Management

Parasitology

Environmental Health

Limnology

Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries

Epidemiology and Public Health



POSTDOCTORAL AND VISITING SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIPS

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12 POSTDOCTORAL AND VISITING SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIPS

12.1 Introduction

The Postgraduate Institute of Science provide Postdoctoral Fellowships to provide training across disciplines and Visiting Scholars to undertake collaborative research with the relevant institutions while contributing to the intellectual and research endeavors, as a part of the mission of the PGIS. This programme aims to facilitate to conduct research for a limited number of distinguished scholars from other academic institutions or accomplished professionals.

The postdoctoral fellow offer is a short-term research position that provides further training in a particular field. During this period, the Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholars have an opportunity to conduct independent research, sharpen technical skills, and focus on their research interests. Further, the PGIS will provide an office room with an internet facility, the facilities to conduct research, laboratory space, access to libraries, health center, recreational facilities, etc. to the PGIS Postdoctoral Fellows/ Visiting Scholars.

The PGIS offers two types of positions.

PGIS-funded Postdoctoral Fellows

Self-funded/Nationally or internationally funded Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholars

12.2 PGIS-funded Postdoctoral Fellows/ Self-funded/Nationally or Internationally-funded Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholars

The appointment is temporary, full-time basis as outlined in the appointment letter, and has fixed starting and end dates. Further, a Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Scholar is required to work five days per week inclusive of weekends.

The Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Scholar shall work independently in collaboration with a supervisor/mentor who is an academic member associated with the PGIS.

Initial appointment at the PGIS is for six months for the PGIS funded Postdoctoral Fellows.

However, for Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholars with outside funding, the duration is the length of their fellowship award funding.

The Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Scholar is not allowed to engage in any other full-time work or research during the period of the said appointment.

The PGIS-funded Postdoctoral Fellows may not undertake any paid employment outside the PGIS without the prior approval of the Director/PGIS.

The selected Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholar are expected to participate actively in the activities of the PGIS based on the recommendation of the Director/PGIS.

A Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Scholar is permitted to teach up to one course per semester in the postgraduate programmes conducted by the PGIS for additional payments at the PGIS rates.

12.3 Application and Selection Procedure

The PGIS offers a limited number of grants for postdoctoral applicants, and suitable applicants are selected from a committee appointed by the Board of Management of the PGIS.

The applicant should use the PGIS format given in the link (give the link to the PGIS research proposal).

The panel appointed by the Board of Management of the PGIS, will evaluate all applications received in a given year based on the academic record, and scientific quality of the research proposal, aligned with the mission of the PGIS.

12.4 Progress and Extension

Extension and monitoring of the progress of the Postdoctoral Fellow shall be evaluated by a three-member panel appointed by the Research Grant Committee (RGC) of the PGIS.

Extension of the position for which the PGIS funded postdoctoral positions will be based on the progress and the recommendation of the supervisor/mentor and a three-member panel appointed by the RGC of the PGIS. The extension of such cases will be a maximum of two years.

All Postdoctoral Fellows should submit a one-page monthly progress report through the supervisor/mentor to the Director, PGIS (Format- according to the PGIS).

A Postdoctoral Fellow shall present his/her progress in the research in every six months to the panel appointed by the RGC of the PGIS.

All Postdoctoral Fellows/Visiting Scholars should submit a final report based on the research carried out during the tenure at the PGIS through the supervisor/mentor to the Director PGIS (Format- according to the PGIS).



CELLS, UNITS AND COMMITTEES

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13 CELLS, UNITS AND COMMITTEES

13.1 Introduction

The PGIS has various units and committees aimed at enriching the academic experience and supporting the diverse needs of our students, faculty, and stakeholders. From ensuring the highest standards of quality assurance to nurturing entrepreneurial spirit and ethical research practices, each unit and committee plays a pivotal role in shaping our institution's culture of excellence and advancing our collective mission.

13.2 Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Established in 2020 according to the guidelines given by the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Commission, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has a broad mandate of coordinating all the quality assurance related activities within the institute in liaison with the Centre of Quality Assurance of the University. The IQAC promotes measures for institutional level functioning towards quality enhancement through internalizing of best practices in academic, academic-related and administrative processes.

13.3 Industrial and Entrepreneur Unit

The unit is managing and handling all industrial and entrepreneurial activities of PGIS. The unit collaborates with various business parties, industries, institutes, investors, and grant bodies to facilitate industrial programmes and the entrepreneurship of PGIS.

13.4 Data Science Unit

The Data Science Unit (DSU) provides on-demand access to High Performance Computing (HPC) services that support high-quality research for using supercomputers, parallel computing and/or computer clusters which are essential for dealing with large scale data. The services of this unit will help researchers to perform advanced computing tasks including modelling, data processing and analysis. We run a local cluster called “Pera” which provides facilities for postgraduate students and teaching staff of the Postgraduate Institute of Science. Those who need to access HPC resources have to register online.

13.5 Ethical Clearance Committee

The Committee for Ethical Clearance of the Postgraduate Institute of Science reviews research involving human participants and animal subjects, for ethical aspects. The Committee operates under the Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures recommended by the Forum for Ethics Review Committees of Sri Lanka and functions in accordance with national and international guidelines.

13.6 Research Grant Committee

The Research Grant Committee of PGIS facilitates annual Research Grant programmes, assists academics in attracting research grants, managing research grants, assisting early career graduates in research careers, attracting donations to improve infrastructure facilities of the institute, and facilitating research activities and publications. PGIS Research Grant Committee manages all research and development activities.

13.7 Student Grievance Committee

The Counseling unit offers solutions to the problems of PGIS students and staff. It also designs and organizes motivational activities and events for students and staff to achieve their goals successfully.

13.8 Career Guidance and Development Unit

The unit aims to guide and develop the career of PGIS students. The unit arranges training needs of PGIS students, development and revision of curricula to meet with career needs, and organizes interview sessions between PGIS graduates and employers.

13.9 Excellence in Biodiversity Research Unit

The global concern on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity has strongly emphasized the need for trained taxonomists, geneticists, and ecologists to assist in the identification, classification, and assessing the genetic diversity of plants, animals, and other organisms in conservation areas as well as understanding the ecosystem structure, functions, and their dynamics. Conservationists, foresters, agriculturists, Ayurveda practitioners, medical researchers, and many biologists working with plants and animals are heavily dependent either on taxonomic documentation or gathering ecological information with the ultimate aim of managing ecosystems sustainably. This need is strongly felt by a country like Sri Lanka where the biodiversity is rich and at the same time is highly threatened and depleting at an alarming rate. At present, together with the Western Ghats of India, Sri Lanka is listed as one of the Biodiversity Hotspots of the world. The growing awareness that biodiversity is a precious global asset to present and future generations and that species' survival and the integrity of habitats and ecosystems are at serious risk has increased the importance of biodiversity-related research significantly. To mitigate these issues related to the depletion of biodiversity and contribute towards the country's sustainable conservation goals, PGIS established a Unit for Excellence in Biodiversity Research to facilitate multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary research and other outreach activities related to biodiversity and its management and conservation. This promotes collaborative and multi/interdisciplinary research work by setting the stage for researchers from various areas to work together like Ecology, Genetics, Genomics, Systematics and Phylogenetics, Evolutionary Biology, Bioinformatics, Forestry, Microbiology, Mycology, Modeling, Environmental Archeology, and Behavioral Ecology.

13.10 Multidisciplinary Disaster Research Unit

The Unit for Multidisciplinary Disaster Research (UMDR) focuses on advancing disaster knowledge through interdisciplinary collaboration. UMDR leads efforts in disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery, linking national and international research communities. It trains scholars and practitioners in disaster management and supports policy development to build a disaster-resilient society. Operating under the PGIS's Management Committee, UMDR also engages the public by disseminating disaster knowledge. UMDR aims to be a national leader in disaster research, contributing significantly to both academic and practical advancements.

13.11 Media Unit

The PGIS Media unit brings PGIS events and activities to the public. The unit manages the social media pages of PGIS, creates educational videos, publishes activities and achievements in media, advertises academic programmes, and promotes PGIS to the international level.



FACILITIES

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14 FACILITIES

14.1 Library

Postgraduate students are provided with library facilities in the library of the Faculty of Science. The library holds a very large number of books and journal titles. In addition, this library subscribes to a substantial amount of foreign and local journals annually. The library has a project report/thesis collection of all the M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees offered by the PGIS. Audio visual facilities are also available at the library.

Further arrangements can be made to use the main library and other faculty libraries of the University of Peradeniya. The PGIS may also organize access to other libraries in Sri Lanka by prior arrangement through relevant institutions.

14.2 Lecture Rooms and Auditoriums

The PGIS buildings have lecture halls, two auditorium and a boardroom equipped with all modern audio-visual facilities.

14.3 Laboratories and Instrumentation

At present Departments of Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Physics, Statistics and Computer Science, and Zoology in the Faculty of Science provide laboratory facilities to the postgraduate students of the PGIS to carry out their work. In addition, for certain courses and research programmes laboratories in other Institutions are also used by prior arrangement. At present, the PGIS has a chemistry/environmental laboratory. In addition, the PGIS will be able to house teaching laboratories and research laboratories in its new building.

PGIS is in the process of developing its instrumentation laboratories by installing state-of-the-art instrumentation. At present, there are three instrumentation laboratories for teaching/research purposes, with a new X ray diffraction facility.

14.4 ICT/GIS and Data Science Laboratories

The ICT/GIS laboratories at the PGIS provide services to the postgraduate students. A wide range of software is available to fulfill the requirements of all fields of study. Internet facilities are also available for both students and staff. Computer laboratories at the Department of Statistics and Computer Science of the Faculty of Science also provide services to the postgraduate students of the PGIS. PGIS is in the process of establishing a new computer laboratory for computationally intensive data processing.



14.5 Recreation

A reading room and a student common room are available for student use at the PGIS. Facilities for athletics, cricket, hockey, rugby, soccer, volleyball, tennis, swimming, etc. are available in the university premises. A well-equipped gymnasium is situated near the institute where students could participate in indoor games such as badminton, basket ball, table tennis, weight lifting, etc. A theatre for screening of films, documentaries, etc. and an open-air theatre for dramas are also available in the university campus.

14.6 Healthcare

The Health Center headed by the Chief Medical Officer, provides preventive and curative health care to the university community including the postgraduate students. A 24-hour medical service catering to emergencies is also provided by the Health Center. Cases which cannot be handled at the Health Center are referred to the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya or the Teaching Hospital, Kandy.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

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15 CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

15.1 Introduction

As part of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded scholars and fostering a vibrant campus culture, we offer a diverse range of clubs and societies. These organizations provide invaluable opportunities for networking, skill-building, and social interaction, enriching the academic experience and fostering lifelong connections among our postgraduate community. In this handbook, you will find information about each club and society, their objectives, activities, and how you can get involved. Whether you are interested in research, public speaking, alumni engagement, or networking within your field, there is something for everyone to explore and contribute to the dynamic fabric of our institute's community. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources and engage with your peers to make the most of your postgraduate experience.

15.2 Young Researchers Forum

PGIS-YRF was established on 12th May 2005 at a seminar on 'Challenges and Opportunities in Scientific Researcher for Young Researchers' conducted by the PGIS. The Forum was found with a view to:

- Realize the potential of young researchers as the next generation of scientists
- Interact and exchange information pertaining to scientific research in order to disseminate knowledge and extend collaboration among other groups (local and foreign) with similar interests
- Generate a research climate that allows for creativity, open communication and free flow of ideas and talents
- Create a platform to bring to the attention of the authorities and government, the problem faced by young researchers in carrying out scientific research in Sri Lanka
- Promote public awareness and importance of scientific research

15.3 Science Education Alumni Association (SEAA)

The Science Education Alumni Association of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya was established with following objectives;

- To encourage, foster and promote close relationship between the Postgraduate Institute of Science and her alumni and among the alumni themselves;
- To ensure that alumni programmes are initiated and developed for the benefit of the alumni
- To provide and disseminate information regarding Science Education programmes to the alumni
- To pursue any other objectives which are in conformity with the above aims and objectives of the Association

15.4 Computer Science Alumni Association (CSAA)

The Computer Science Alumni Association of the Postgraduate Institute of Science was brought into existence on the 15th of November 2015 with the initial humble aims of:

- Bringing together students from all batches of Computer Science Postgraduate Diploma, M.Sc, M.Phil, and Ph.D programmes carried out at PGIS since its inception in year 2000.
- Expressing gratitude to our Alma Mater by contributing in all ways possible in order to fulfil her aims and objectives in providing, promoting and developing higher education in science.
- Regrouping the best minds produced by the Postgraduate Institute of Science, so that research contributions to the field of Computer Science can continue to increase in quality.

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