

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Scholarship Scheme for Split – site PhD for Lecturer (Probationary)

1. Key Features

Each scholarship shall be awarded towards full-time postgraduate studies leading to Ph.D. on split-site basis **only**. In areas of study where an M.Phil. is a requirement for entry to Ph.D. program, this scholarship may be utilized initially for M.Phil. and proceed thereafter for Ph.D. However, the maximum duration/period of the scholarship shall not exceed three years.

The split-site scholarships will support study at an overseas university with part of the studies being undertaken in Sri Lanka, under the joint supervision from both institutions. Minimum of 12 months, not necessarily continuous, should be spent in Sri Lanka. Registration for the postgraduate degree and the final qualification (Ph.D.) obtained can be from either a Sri Lankan university or a university abroad.

2. Eligibility

Scholarships shall be awarded to Lecturers (Probationary) of OUSL, who are entitled to full-time study leave, for at least **four** years of the total probationary period.

3. Value of Awards

The maximum value of each scholarship will be Rs. 6.0 million. Scholarship funds will be granted up to 3 years, 6.0 million disbursed over a period of three years. The total value of the scholarship shall be decided by the Selection Committee and may vary depending on the field of research study undertaken, tuition fees and other considerations. The university will inform each candidate of the maximum grant approved.

Each scholarship will cover approved registration, tuition and examination fees, and a personal maintenance allowance (when overseas) a rate approved by the OUSL, subject to the maximum value of the scholarship awarded. The overseas maintenance allowance shall be for a maximum period of 4 months.

4. Nomination and Selection Process

The OUSL will invite nominations each quarter of the year from eligible members of staff. The number of scholarships to be granted each year shall be decided by the Senior Management Committee.

Each Head of Department, in consultation with the respective Dean of the Faculty shall nominate one staff member who satisfies the eligibility criteria. In case there is more than one nominee from a Department, a priority list shall be given. The nominee(s) shall submit a duly completed application form together with a tentative placement.

Each Faculty shall select the nominees to be recommended to the Vice-Chancellor. The selection at Faculty level shall be done by a committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty and Heads of Departments, based on the Selection Criteria (Section 5) given below. Completion of Induction Training Program for Lecturer (Probationary) is an essential requirement for selection.

Each Faculty may recommend up to 02 nominees in order of priority to the Vice-Chancellor, together with the marks schedule of all nominees.

Once an academic staff member is selected from a department in a particular year, that department will not be able to nominate a further staff member within two consecutive years.

University Selection Committee, comprising the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of Faculties shall select the candidate/s to be awarded scholarships in conformity with selection criteria given below (Section 5) SAR/Academic Establishments will serve as Secretary to the Selection Committee.

5. Criteria for Selection

	Criteria	Maximum points
a	Institutional development i. Instructional material development (incl. on-line component) (5+5) ii. Course delivery (incl. on-line) (5+5) iii. Contribution to department, faculty & university development (10)	30 10 each for the three areas mentioned
b	Research and publications (Abstract – 0.5, Chapter in a book* - 2, paper in refereed journal – 4, Books* reviewed by recognized experts – 4)	08
c	Period of service since joining the academic staff (3 per year)	12
d	Academic distinctions during and after undergraduate studies (prizes, medals, scholarships excluding Mahapola) (2 per event)	10
e	Extracurricular activities at National level (2 per event)	10
f	Priority for selected training area based on departmental need (refer 5.1 below)	15
g	Preparedness (refer 5.2 below)	15

(*Books: excluding OUSL course material)

5.1 **Priority for selected training area, based on departmental need** – Allocation of points will be on the following basis:

Department

Without any PhD up to - 10 pts

Allocation of points can be calculated:

$$\frac{\text{No of academic staff without Ph. D}}{\text{Total No. of academic staff in the Department}} \times 10$$

Staff with postgraduate qualification due to retire within next 5 years – 05 pts

$$\frac{\text{No of staff with Ph. D due to retire}}{\text{Total No. of academic staff}} \times 5$$

5.2 **Extent of Preparedness** – Allocation of points will be on the following basis:

Placement* up to - 05 pts

Detailed research proposal** - 05 pts

Acquired post-graduate qualifications after joining OUSL - 05 pts

*in Sri Lanka – 05; overseas: 05

**has to be evaluated by two experts outside OUSL

6. Placement

Once a scholarship is awarded, it is the responsibility of the candidate to confirm a placement for the stipulated PhD program, within a maximum period of 4 months.

Failure by the Candidate to secure a placement within 4 months of notification shall result in the transfer of the scholarship to the first reserve candidate.

It is the candidate's responsibility to take action to obtain all eligibility requirements relevant to securing placements and registration for a PhD program at a particular university.

7. Release of Funds

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to provide all documentation for release of funds.

The registration, tuition and other fees will be released according to the rules and regulations of the university the candidate is registered for the M.Phil. / Ph.D. program.

The University will release the living allowance to the candidate on a monthly basis, when in overseas country only. The allowance paid as the monthly stipend will be decided by the OUSL.

For the foreign training component, the candidate may utilize the provisions of airfare and other approved allowances as per the guidelines of the University Grants Commission.

Funds will continue to be released upon the receipt of satisfactory six monthly progress report.

8. Progress Monitoring

The progress will be regularly monitored by the University.

An initial report on background of research, work plan etc. with attestation from Supervisor(s), Head of the Department, and Dean of the Faculty to the Vice-Chancellor, for consideration of the Leave and Awards Committee.

If progress reports are not received or reported as unsatisfactory for two consecutive periods of six months, steps will be taken to stop the grant and recover all dues as per the agreement bond.

It is expected that scholarship holders will submit the thesis within 4 years. Upon completion, a copy of the PhD thesis and Certificate should be submitted to the university.

Any change of the area of study after the award of the scholarship was made required ratification of the Department and Faculty.

9. Agreement and Bond

Each candidate shall sign an Agreement Bond with the University as per existing UGC circulars for same. The Bond shall also include clauses to recover funds in case of misuse of funds and non-completion of PhD program.

10. Acknowledgments

Candidates shall acknowledge the financial assistance provided by the OUSL in all publications arising out of the research work carried out for PhD.