

Master of Arts Degree in Development Studies & Public Policy **(Collaborative Programme of the Open University of Sri Lanka and the Marga Institute)**

THE PROGRAMME AND THE PARTNERS

The Master of Arts (MA) in Development Studies and Public Policy is a Programme offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Marga Institute. This is of two years duration in the English medium.

Marga Institute and the Open University are partners in this joint postgraduate venture designed to create a community of personnel with a multi-disciplinary social science approach to development issues.

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) was established in 1980 for broadening higher educational opportunities for Sri Lankan people over 18 years of age. It commenced its operations in 1980, under University Act No. 16 of 1978 and Open University of Sri Lanka Ordinance No. 1 of 1990 as amended by the Ordinance No. 12 of 1996. Since its inception, as a national university, OUSL continues to play a catalytic role in nation building through the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Education, Natural Sciences, Health Sciences and Engineering Technology. It now has a student population of 40000 scattered over the island.

In this collaboration, The Open University provides the necessary quality assurance to the academic functions, final examination and certification of the successful students.

The Marga Institute is a non-profit centre for development research and advocacy established in 1972 on the private initiative of a group of public officers, academics and professionals. It was registered with the Registrar of Companies as a Company Limited by guarantee. The Institute's outlook and conceptual framework have been non-partisan and ideologically open.

The principal activity of the Marga Institute is the study and critical evaluation of past and on-going development processes in Sri Lanka. It approaches and analyses development as a process and as a condition in which economic growth, social equity, political freedom and participation are integrally linked, and reinforcing one another.

The Institute makes available the vast body of knowledge it has acquired and the analytical tool kit developed during the last three decades devoted to the careful study and analysis of development issues in Sri Lanka and in the region.

THE SCOPE OF THE MA PROGRAMME AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The programme covers three main areas of development; economic, social and political. Consequently, it draws on a wide range of social science disciplines with a multidisciplinary approach to its work.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- To upgrade the knowledge base and analytical skills of social science graduates to embark on multi-disciplinary research of local and global significance.
- To engage in analysis of policy initiatives of governmental and other international organizations.
- To equip students with research skills and methodologies, adhering to highest ethical standards to facilitate evidence based development scrutiny and analysis.
- Development of verbal and written communication competencies in social sciences in line with international benchmarks.
- Attitudinal transformation of personnel engaged in development policy planning in harmony with global benchmarks and standards.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- a) A degree from a recognized university with at least one year of work experience in the field of planning, administration and implementation of development projects, or,
- b) secured an equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka with at least one year of work experience in the fields of planning, administration and implementation of development projects, and,
- c) By Test/Interview conducted by the Department of Social Studies

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

English will be the language of instruction and assessment.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The MA Programme consists of thirteen regular courses and one Continuing Education course to be offered in Semesters I (one) and II (two), with the subject matter arranged as modules dealing with Historical, Theoretical, and Thematic issues relating to development.

The Historical Module will take the student through the different phases of the development process in Sri Lanka after independence. The Theoretical Module will cover the concepts of development as they evolved in the UN System and in the academic community, and the principles of the three main Social Sciences – Economics, Sociology and Political Science, and research methodology. The Thematic Module will consist of cross-cutting themes and case studies which are relevant to the understanding of the development process in Sri Lanka. They are intended to strengthen the multi-disciplinary framework of analysis to be applied for the research dissertation. This knowledge base will enable students to be confident in multi-perspectival thinking and also play a catalytic role in individual and social system change.

THE SELECTION TEST AND INTERVIEW FOR ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR MA IN DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMME

A Selection Test and an interview will be conducted by the department of Social Studies for the students who apply for the MA in Development Studies and Public Policy.

These instruments will enable us to ensure that those selected for the MA Programme possess (a) a good command of the English language, both written and oral, and (b) the basic conceptual and analytical skills required to follow an advanced postgraduate training in Development Studies inspired by multi-disciplinary Social Sciences. You will be informed about the test by the Department of Social studies after applying for the programme.

COURSE CODES, COURSES AND CREDIT RATING

This programme will consist of 45 credits worth of Regular courses, 15 credits worth of research work and 3 credits worth of Continuing Education Courses. The two academic years are divided into four semesters to enable students to give undivided attention to selected courses.

Each semester will be of five months duration. The term credit implies the number of study hours that a student should devote to a particular course. A credit involves 50 notional hours of study.

CURRICULUM

Level 9 (MA 1st year)

Course code	Course title	Credits	Semester
DSP9401	Concepts of Development	4	1
DSP9402	Economics of Development	4	1
DSP9403	Sociology of Development	4	1
DSP9304	Multi-disciplinary Approach to Development Analysis	3	1
DSP9405	Post-independence Development History of Sri Lanka	4	2
DSP9406	Politics of Development	4	2
DSP9407	Development Communication for Behavior and Social Change	4	2
DSP9308	Project Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3	2
DSE 9301	Critical Reading and Academic Writing (Continuing Education)	3	2
Total		33	

Level 10 (MA 2nd year)

Course code	Course title	Credits	Semester
DSPA201	Development Strategies and Policies	2	1
DSPA302	Contemporary Economic Thought and Public Policy	3	1
DSPA303	Contemporary Social Thought and Public Policy	3	1
DSPA304	Contemporary Political Thought and Public Policy	3	1
DSPA405	Research Methodology in Social Sciences	4	1
DSPAF06	Dissertation	15	2
Total		30	

MAJOR CROSS CUTTING THEMES

The Plantation Economy; Food Self Sufficiency; State Enterprises and the State Controlled Economy; Structural Adjustment and Economic Reforms; Process of Liberalization; The Social Welfare State; The Demographic Transition; Poverty Reduction; Trade Union Movement; Ethnic Conflict; Youth Politics; Political Parties; Constitutional Changes; and, development communication, participatory decision making, and attitudinal transformation for individual and social system change.

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT, FINAL EXAMINATION AND GRADING SYSTEM

The assessment of students in any course will consist of two components viz. Continuous Assessment (CA) and Final Examination. The Continuous Assessment component for each course will consist of two Continuous Assessment Tests (CAT -I & CAT -II). CAT – I is to be administered by way of Article Review while CAT – II is done through a group Presentation. Final assessment of each course will be done by way of final examinations that expect essay type of answers.

A student who fails to obtain 50 marks or more for Continuous Assessment (CA) in a particular course shall be deemed to have failed that course. Such a student may repeat that course by re-registering in the following academic year.

Grades	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
Grade Point Value	4.00	4.00	3.70	3.30	3.00	2.70	2.30	2.00	1.70	1.30	1.00	0.00
Minimum mark (Z)	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	20	0

The overall assessment mark (Z %) of a student in respect of any course shall be based on the Overall Continuous Assessment Mark (OCAM) (X %) and the mark obtained at the Final Examination (Y %) and shall be computed as follows:

When

$Y \geq 50$, then $Z = 0.5X + 0.5Y$

$45 \leq Y < 50$, then $Z = 0.5X + 0.5Y$ subject to a maximum of 50

$Y < 45$ then Z

GRADE AND GRADE POINT VALUE

Grades A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+ and C constitute pass grades.

A student who is awarded a grade C-, D+, D or E for a particular course shall be deemed to have failed that course and cannot count that course towards her/his credit requirement for the completion of the programme.

To pursue with the research dissertation in the fourth semester, a student needs to maintain minimum pass grades (PC) for all the courses in the first, second and third semesters. The length of the

dissertation should be 15,000 – 20,000 words. After submission, the student will be subjected to a viva voce examination by a Board of examiners.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CERTIFICATION

The responsibility for quality assurance processes relating to continuous Assessment (CA), Final Evaluations, and recommendation and appointment of examiners will lie with the Open University of Sri Lanka. Those who successfully complete the MA in Development Studies and Public Policy will be conferred their Degree by the Open University of Sri Lanka at the annual convocation.

COURSE FEE

The total fees payable by a student for this course, inclusive of Tuition Fees and Examination Fees, will be Rs. 226800 (3600 X 63 Credits) payable in two installments. Any repeat offer of courses will be charged accordingly (Rs. 3600 per credit). The following payments should also be made.

Registration Fees	Rs. 1000
Facility Fees	Rs. 1500

The cost of the application package will be Rs. 800

VENUE FOR LECTURES AND LIBRARY FACILITIES

All lectures will be conducted at the Marga Institute, the organization responsible for the teaching function. Minimum 80% of attendance is required for the lectures. Participation in certain activities such as seminars, debates and group work is mandatory. The candidates will be provided with learning materials, printed/electronic. Registered students are entitled to use the library facilities at the Marga Institute. Additionally, they will also be able to use the library of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Godfrey Gunatilleke, Chairman Emeritus, Marga Institute

Mr. Asoka Gunawardena, Chairman, Marga Institute

Mrs. Myrtle Perera, Vice Chairperson, Marga Institute

Dr. N.S. Morais, Head, Department of Social Studies, OUSL

Prof. W.T.A. Fernando, Associate Professor in Social Studies, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

Dr. N.S. Abeysinghe, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL,

Dr. Kanchana Bulumulle, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL,

Dr. Anton Piyaratne, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

Dr. Sepalika Welikala, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL,

Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL,

Mrs. Thiwankee Wickramasighe, Senior Lecturer and MA Programme Coordinator, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

Dr. Athulasiri Samarakoon, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

Dr. Madhubhashini Galagedarage, Senior Lecturer and MA Programme Coordinator, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

Dr. Mahim Mendis, Senior Lecturer and MA Programme Director, Dept. of Social Studies, OUSL

THE TWO INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

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