



The Open University of Sri Lanka

Postgraduate Guide Book
2023/2024

Master of Science in Nursing

Faculty of Health Sciences
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Master of Science in Nursing Degree Programme

2023/2024

Department of Nursing
Faculty of Health Sciences

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The Open University of Sri Lanka

Vision

To attain excellence in life-changing education by providing equitable learning opportunities.

Mission

To provide lifelong learning opportunities through Open, Distance and Flexible Education with a commitment to excellence in teaching and research.

Mission of the Faculty of Health Sciences

To promote lifelong learning by facilitating learner centered open and distance educational opportunities in health and allied health sciences, with quality teaching and innovative research leading to excellence in collaborative professional practice.



Message from the Dean

Dear Students,

You are warmly welcomed to the Master of Sciences in Nursing degree programme at the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Having a humble proud to be a pioneer University for graduate education in Nursing in Sri Lanka with introducing the first-ever Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree programme in 1994 with the collaboration of the Athabasca University in Canada, I would like to again be proud to introduce the first-ever Master of Science in Nursing degree programme at the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences in the Open University of Sri Lanka in 2022.

With the past experiences of the Department, and the initial support from the University of New Mexico, USA, the Department of Nursing has launched this Master of Science in Nursing degree programme. The Department and the Faculty make all the effort to ensure and maintain the quality of higher education on par with international standards of renowned universities.

I immensely appreciate your interest to become a postgraduate student of the above degree programme and look forward to the development of yourself as well as the Nursing profession in Sri Lanka. Almost all countries in the world are offering postgraduate Nursing education and many Masters and PhD qualified Nursing professionals to have the leading role in the clinical and Nursing education sectors. It is therefore high time to upgrade your professional status. Entering this degree you are contributing to achieving that target.

The Department and the Faculty do not wish that you will end up with not only a Masters Degree but also wish to see you a lifelong learner who will rise beyond the doctoral level contributing to the development of your status as well as your profession in Sri Lanka.

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Sciences, I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. B. Sunil S. De Silva

Dean / Senior Lecturer in Nursing

Faculty of Health Sciences

Telephone: +94 11 2881075 Email: deanhealth@ou.ac.lk



Message from the Head

Dear Students,

You are warmly welcomed to the Master of Science in Nursing degree programme at the Department of Nursing. While the Open University of Sri Lanka takes pride in its significant contributions to the Sri Lankan Nursing education system being the pioneer of University education in Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing degree will be recorded as another historical step as of its first kind in a national University in Sri Lanka.

The Master of Science in Nursing degree programme has been designed to align with the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) and this qualification would enhance the capacity of nursing graduates to advance the knowledge, research skills and professional leadership to collaborate effectively and efficiently within the health care team.

I congratulate you on your decision to enroll in the Master of Science in Nursing degree programme and, I extremely believe this degree will provide a greater opportunity for you to broaden your knowledge, develop a range of skills and instill favorable attitudes to enrich the quality of nursing practice in Sri Lanka.

This programme will be delivered through the open and distance learning mode, with blended learner support including face-to-face contact and integrating a range of conventional and recent information and communication technologies. This programme is enriched with diverse assessments and evaluation strategies to ensure reaching the learning outcomes of the programme. We are pleased to provide the necessary guidance and support for you to become a successful learner through your learning journey during this programme.

Wish you a rewarding time with us and hope you will make your maximum effort to succeed in your educational goals.

Dr. K. A. Sriyani

Head/ Senior Lecturer in Nursing

Telephone: +94 11 2881325 Email: hdnurse@ou.ac.lk

The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) was established in 1980 under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and the OUSL Ordinance No 01 of 1990. It, therefore, has the same legal and academic status as any other national university in Sri Lanka. The OUSL is the only recognized university in Sri Lanka, where one can pursue higher education solely by distance education techniques in keeping with the philosophy of OPEN & DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL).

The OUSL is an attractive choice of study, especially for those employed. The OUSL offers courses/programmes from the Foundation and Certificate levels through Bachelor to Masters and Ph.D. degrees. The structure of study programmes provides opportunities for those who complete one programme to progress up the ladder and further improve their educational qualifications. Education at OUSL is thus a life-long experience.

The OUSL functions through a network of centres spread throughout the island. The Central Campus and the Colombo Regional Centre of the OUSL are situated in Nawala, Colombo (Appendix 3). The current student population is around 40,000. The academic departments of the University are grouped into Six Faculties: Education, Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, Management Studies, and Natural Sciences.

Faculty of Health Sciences

The Faculty of Health Sciences comprises the Departments of Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Pharmacy, Basic Sciences, Psychology & Counselling, and Health Education & Research. The administrative and academic head of the Faculty is the Dean and each Department functions under a Head.

The Faculty offers quality distance education programmes leading to Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Pharmacy and Psychology Honours Degree qualifications. These programmes aim to develop competent personnel who can assume leadership positions, both in the academic and clinical sectors. We are extremely proud to be a major force in educating the next generation of health and allied health professionals in Sri Lanka.

With the Faculty of Health Sciences, you will have the opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills, work towards a qualification and further develop your career with a passion for life-long learning.

Study System

The study system of the OUSL is based on distance learning methodologies. It is different from the conventional study system most of you are familiar with. Regular attendance at the university is not required and is therefore well suited for those of you who are employed or engaged with other commitments. Student learning is facilitated through carefully prepared course study guides which are blended with online learning and audio-visual materials. Student progress in courses is evaluated at different time intervals using a variety of assessment methods such as No Book Tests, quizzes, reflective journals, reflective articles, article critiques, memo writing, discussion forums, case studies, presentations, scholarly papers, projects, viva voce, portfolios and final examinations.

Pathway to the Master of Science in Nursing Degree programme

The OUSL has been offering a BSc Honours in Nursing Degree Programme for registered nurses since 1994 and up to date, over 2100 students have graduated. Hence, there are many graduate nurses in the field of nursing practice in search of postgraduate educational opportunities. But currently, limited opportunities are available in the country for nursing graduates to further advance their knowledge and skills required to improve the healthcare sector of the country and to obtain qualifications for promotion and career advancement. It is therefore clear that a critical need exists to cater to this training landscape. Moreover, it is expected that the demand for such a postgraduate programme will continuously increase with graduates passing out annually from the OUSL and other conventional universities in Sri Lanka. It is in this context that the Department of Nursing at the OUSL decided to provide an opportunity to obtain a Masters level degree qualification for nurses in Sri Lanka.

The Department of Nursing, as one of the academic departments of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the OUSL has the mandate to offer the two-year Masters programme in Nursing that was approved at the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) and the other relevant committees of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Following obtaining relevant accreditations, the department is pleased to offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSc in Nursing) degree programme for nurses with BSc Nursing or equal qualifications that are acceptable to the Senate of the OUSL. This is a Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) conformed (Level 10 qualification) Masters degree with coursework and research component, with minimum 02 years duration (60 credits). There will also be an exit qualification from the MSc in Nursing degree programme at Level 9 (Master of Nursing, 30 credits, Minimum 01 year).

What's Unique about MSc in Nursing Programme at OUSL

- Provides a pathway for Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates to continue postgraduate education targeted to the needs of their profession.
- Students will develop an advanced understanding of healthcare systems and contexts. They will also further develop transferrable skills and capabilities to engage in nursing research empowering them to improve nursing practice and education through evidence-based practice.
- Students will be able to enhance their capabilities to provide efficient and cost-effective care for improving the quality of care and the quality of life of clients, taking leadership roles within diverse healthcare settings, including at all levels of decision and policymaking.
- Masters' holders will be able to seek promotions, better job opportunities, and higher salaries in the national and international market.
- Masters' holders will be able to seek gainful employment in management and teaching positions in nursing including clinical nurse educators, nurse managers, special grade nursing officers, nursing tutors, public health nursing sisters, academic positions, and other higher positions in the health and educational sectors, both local and global.
- Competencies developed will prepare students to pursue further higher education at the Master of Philosophy and the Doctoral levels.

Programme Objectives

- ⇒ Enhance knowledge and skills required for advancing the nursing practice, enabling appropriate judgements and problem solving towards providing quality care.
- ⇒ Develop communication skills, critical thinking and practical/technical skills for the effective management of nursing care and achieve desired patient outcomes.
- ⇒ Develop advanced research skills to promote evidence-based practice.
- ⇒ Improve teamwork and leadership skills essential for be an effective member of the health care team and to play a leadership role to achieve quality outcomes of patient care.
- ⇒ Inculcate favourable attitudes to work with professionalism to achieve desired healthcare outcomes.
- ⇒ Establish adaptability and flexibility among nurses to meet the challenging health care needs of the emerging society.
- ⇒ Produce scholars in nursing who can integrate the knowledge of theory and research to advance the field of nursing.

Target Group

The MSc in Nursing degree programme is targeted for:

- Graduate nurses from the clinical and public health fields
- Nursing academics working in universities and various academic institutions

Entry Requirements

Applicants for admission to the MSc in Nursing degree programme must have successfully completed:

- (a) A bachelor's degree of SLQF Level 5 in Nursing,
or,
- (b) A qualification of SLQF Level 6 or above in Nursing,
or,
- (c) An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate
and,
- (d) Merit-based on the selection test marks.

Admission and Registration

Students selected for admission to the MSc in Nursing degree programme offered by the department are notified and will be required to register themselves on a specified date. The first time you register for the programme at the OUSL, you are referred to as a new registrant. When you register for courses in the subsequent years, you are called a re-registrant.

If a student does not renew his/her registration for 5 consecutive years, the registration to the programme will be lapsed.

Orientation Session

To help familiarize new students with the OUSL and the MSc in Nursing degree programme, the Department organises a pre-registration orientation session. Before registration, students are required to download the registration package that contains essential registration forms and related information from the Department of Nursing website. You are strongly advised to carefully read all the information given in this package. Academic counsellors are also available to advise and help students during the orientation session.

Registering for Courses

Students register for each course of the MSc in Nursing degree programme individually at the beginning of the academic year. New registrants should register for a minimum of 08 credits at their first registration and the maximum allowable credits are 30. In order to complete the MSc in Nursing programme in two academic years, the Department strongly recommends registering for all courses at each SLQF Level during the relevant registration period.

Credit Rating

Programmes, as well as courses, carry a credit rating. The 'credit rating' is the expression used in the OUSL to denote the "academic value" of a course/programme. The word *credit* does NOT imply any measure of academic performance at an examination such as a Credit pass at GCE Ordinary/Advanced Level Examination. The credit rating gives a measure of the time expected to be spent on studying the course.

At the OUSL, one credit is equal to **50 notional hours** of study/learning time. Notional learning hours are the estimated learning time taken by an 'average' student to achieve the specified learning outcomes of the course or programme; and proportionate to what is expected for you to learn. They are not a precise measure but provide students with an indication of the amount of study and degree of commitment expected. Notional study/learning time includes all aspects of work including, face-to-face (day schools/consultation)

sessions, seminars, workshops, presentations, continuous assessments, final examinations, reading of reference materials, and time spent on independent study during the semester.

Table 1 outlines the relationship between the credit rating and the total time expected to be spent on your studies, depending on the number of courses or total credits you offer for a particular year. For example, a 3 credit course is around 150 notional hours. In study time, this would mean you are expected to spend at least 8 hours per week on average, for this 3 credit course offered during one semester.

Table 1: Credit Rating and Notional Study/Learning Hours

Credit rating	02	03	04	06	08	15	30
Notional study hours	100	150	200	300	400	750	1500

Course Code

Each course is assigned a course code. This code includes components that uniquely identify the course. Specific letters assigned to the Courses of Nursing Degrees are NG.

Table 2: Programmes/Levels of Study

Programme of Study						
Level	Foundation	Certificate	Diploma	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Continuing Education
1	F1	C1				E1
2	F2	C2				E2
3			D3	U3		E3
4			D4	U4		E4
5				U5		E5
6				U6		E6
7					P7	E7
8					P8	E8
9					P9	
10					PA	
11					PB	
12					PC	

Incorporating all of the above components, each course is assigned a course code consisting of 7 alphanumeric characters. The first *three letters* indicate

the area of discipline and the programme of study. The *first digit* reflects the level of study, the second digit gives the credit rating. The last two digits give a unique serial number for the course. An example of a course code is shown in Figure 1.

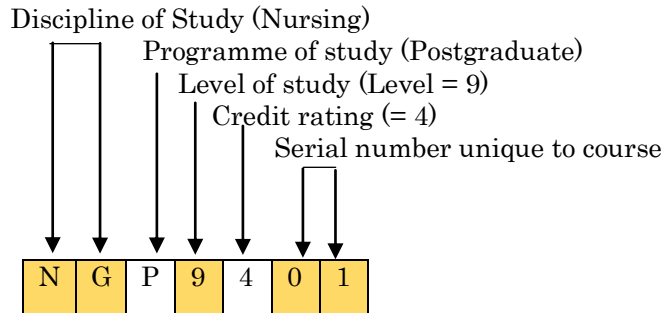


Figure 1: Example of a Course Code

Workload per Academic Year

Workload per Academic Year is 30 Credits. Students may also register simultaneously for up to 02 Programmes of Study, provided entry qualifications and other requirements are satisfied and the total credits registered in both programmes for the particular academic year are within the maximum of 38 credits (30 credits of regular courses and 08 credits of continuing education courses).

At registration, students are provided with the activity schedules relevant to the courses they register for. These indicate the dates and times of activities such as day schools, assessment tests, workshops, seminars etc., that the university has planned for each course. It is the responsibility of the student to draw up a suitable time plan to prepare for these activities.

Studentship Only

A re-registering student can decide not to register for any courses in a given year. However, in this case, you must register under the category of studentship only. Studentship should be obtained within 05 months of the end of the registration period. Beyond this, renewal of registration is permitted only during a registration period, with a financial penalty. It is also important to note that if a student does not renew the studentship for five consecutive years, registration to the programme will lapse.

A student who has obtained studentship will be called for registration for the subsequent academic year. He/she will also be able to sit final examinations in eligible courses, if any, in previous years.

Note: Final examinations results will not be released for the students if they fail to obtain the studentship for the current academic year. Also, Studentship will not be renewed after sitting examinations.

New students cannot register in the “studentship only” category. If they are not registered for any courses in their first year, they are required to apply again as new students and will need to sit for the selection test.

Making Changes to Registered Courses

Students who have registered for the MSc in Nursing degree programme and wish to change courses are permitted to do so within a specified period known as the ‘add/drop period’ and the ‘drop only period’.

Changes During Add/Drop Period

You are permitted to add or drop courses on the dates assigned for this purpose by completing a form that can be obtained from the Assistant Registrar of the Faculty of Health Sciences or downloaded from the Faculty webpage of the OUSL website. If you drop courses you had registered, during this period, the relevant course fee will be credited to your account. In making changes to registered courses, the total 30 credit maximum or the 08 credit minimum limit per academic year, as well as other level or course prerequisites, need to be maintained.

Changes During Drop Period

After the add/drop period, you are not permitted to add courses. However, during the drop period, which runs after the add/drop period, you are permitted to drop courses only. In this case, the course fees already paid will NOT be refunded or carried over to the next academic year. However, such students will NOT be considered as repeat students when they register for the said courses in the next academic year.

It is very important to note that the students who do not sit for continuous assessments/participate in other compulsory academic activities after the drop period will be considered as repeat students for that course in the next academic year.

Withdrawing from the Programme of Study after Registration

After registering in the Programme of Study for the first time, if your circumstances change and you wish to withdraw from the whole Programme, you can do so by writing to the SAR/Student Affairs. The last date to withdraw from the Programme with a refund of the tuition fee payments already made (university will keep only a small percentage for administrative expenses) is the add-drop date. Students dropping from the whole Programme of Study after this date will not get a refund. If such a

student wishes to register for the Programme once again in a subsequent year, will have to apply and sit for the selection test again.

Method of Study

The Programme will be delivered in the English medium through the ODL mode, supporting learners through face-to-face contact and integrating a range of conventional and more recent information and communication technologies. Learners will be supported by day-schools/consultation sessions, seminars, workshops, discussion classes, etc.

Self-study Instructional Material

A reader-friendly course guide will be provided for each course with instructions regarding recommended readings. Where available Open Education Resources (OER) based teaching material will be adopted or adapted as necessary and audio-visual materials will also be used to provide further guidance.

Online Activities

Courses will be supported with online activities through the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS). The online component will contain PowerPoint presentations, recorded lectures or voiced over presentations, quizzes etc. There will also be online discussion forums where teachers and learners can discuss important topics that are of importance.

Day Schools

A limited number of face-to-face interactive sessions will be conducted on pre-scheduled dates. Students in other regions will be reached through web conferencing.

Practical Sessions

There will be computer laboratory sessions where learners will be provided hands-on experiences to gain the required skills.

Workshops & Seminars

Workshops and seminars will be conducted to help students to undertake their research projects and provide advanced knowledge on current topics.

Continuous Assessments and Feedback

Assessments will include formative continuous assessments during the course where feedback will be provided enabling learners to assess their progress.

Dissertation

All students progressing to Level 10 of the MSc in Nursing degree programme need to carry out a one-year research project with a credit value of 20, under the guidance of a supervisor/s and a dissertation should be produced on completion.

Programme Structure

MSc in Nursing degree is a two-year programme and consists of eight (08) core courses and one (01) continuing education course offered in the first year. Second-year of the programme includes two (02) core courses. Students are also required to undertake a dissertation in the second year and the course work and activities of the research are spread over two semesters. Candidates who earn 60 credits on completion of the core courses and the dissertation, will be eligible for the award of the MSc in Nursing by the OUSL.

On completion of the eight (08) core courses at the end of the first year, a candidate who earns 30 credits will be entitled to claim the Master of Nursing provided he/she has reached a Grade Point Average not less than 2.00. Table 3 shows the courses of the MSc in Nursing degree programme. All regular and continuing education courses in Level 9 and 10 of the MSc in Nursing degree programme are compulsory.

Table 3: Courses of MSc in Nursing Degree Programme

Course Code	Course Title	Credits	Pre-requisites
Level 9- Regular Courses			
NGP9401	Theoretical Foundation of Advanced Practice Nursing	04	-
NGP9402	Quantitative Research Methods	04	-
NGP9403	Qualitative Research Methods	04	-
NGP9404	Ethical and Legal Aspects in Nursing	04	-
NGP9405	Health Care Management	04	-
NGP9306	Statistics for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	03	-
NGP9207	Health Policy – Local to Global	02	-
NGP9508	Independent Study	05	-
Level 9- Continuing Education Course (Not counted for GPA)			
NGE9201	Nursing Master Orientation Seminar	02	-
Level 10- Regular Courses			
Prerequisites to register for courses at Level 10: Minimum CR for 30 credits at Level 9 Regular courses and C grade for NGE9201			
NGPA501	Nursing Master Advanced Seminar	05	-
NGPA502	Health Research Management	05	NGP9402, NGP9403 & NGP9306 (C)
NGPAK03	Dissertation	20	NGP9402, NGP9403 & NGP9306 (C)

Note: All courses in Level 9 and 10 are compulsory. CR: Concurrent Registration.

Course Descriptions

NGP9401 - Theoretical Foundation of Advanced Nursing Practice

Overview of theories in nursing, Theory development in nursing, Multiple paradigms of nursing, Theory analysis and evaluation, Grand nursing theories, Middle range nursing theories, Theories from different disciplines, Application of theories in nursing practice, Application of theories in nursing research, Application of theories in nursing administration and management, Application of theories in nursing education

NGP9402 - Quantitative Research Methods

The importance of quantitative research as evidence in nursing practice, Quantitative research process, Research problems, Questions, and hypotheses, Theoretical and conceptual frameworks in quantitative research, Selecting an appropriate design, Sampling strategy, Principles of measurement, Data collection methods, Enhancing the validity and reliability of research, Analyzing quantitative data, Ethical and legal issues in nursing research, Writing a research proposal: Basic elements of a research proposal, Formulating a budget

NGP9403 - Qualitative Research Methods

Introduction-articulating a research question, Theory and theoretical frameworks in qualitative research, Evaluating qualitative research reports, Outline of a research proposal, Research designs: ethnography, auto-ethnography, grounded theory, phenomenology, action research, case study, historical research and discourse analysis, Data collection methods, Validity and reliability, Rigor versus trustworthiness, Software supported qualitative research, Issues in qualitative research, Data analysis methods, Interpretation and presentation of results, New trends in data sources, Data collection and data analysis in the qualitative research domain

NGP9404 - Ethical & Legal Aspects in Nursing

Code of ethics in nursing, Ethical concepts in nursing (autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, veracity, fidelity), Professional boundaries and moral obligations in nursing, Nursing ethical competencies, Safe use of restraints, Workplace violence in the health care setting, End-of-life decisions about withholding or withdrawing therapy, Documentation in nursing practice

NGP9405 - Health Care Management

Introduction to health care management, Management theories in health care, Finance and budget in health care, Recent policy changes in health and social care, Teamwork in health care, Leadership in health care, Health care approaches, Patient journey/care pathways, Collaborative work in health care, Change management tools.

NGP9306 - Statistics for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice

Overview of using statistics in evidence-based nursing practice, Exploring data, Correlation and regression, Probability & probability distributions, Sampling distributions, Confidence intervals, Significance tests, Data analysis using SPSS and report writing

NGP9207 - Health Policy - Local to Global

Introduction to health policies, Political institutions and policymaking, Global perspectives in health policy, Major Sri Lankan health policy programs, Regulatory environment, Government and stakeholders, Comparative health policy, Policy theory: Global health policies, Policies, issues, and evidence, Nursing and health policy, Current Sri Lankan proposals to reform health care, Future trends in global health policy

NGP9508 - Independent Study

Choose an innovative activity related to health care system relevant to own area of practice, Formulate a project with a preliminary draft with concept maps to successfully conduct the activity, Identifying resource persons and other resources need in the project, Implementation of activity, Evaluating successfulness of the hosted project, Planning and conducting a teaching session relevant to implemented innovative activity

NGPA501 - Nursing Master Advanced Seminar

Trends, challenges, and educational technologies in higher education, Critical thinking in clinical practice, Quality assurance in nursing education and practice, Nursing assessment and interventions for post-traumatic stress, Coping with interpersonal stress and psychological distress at work, Occupational health and safety, Nurses' roles in health promotion and encouraging involvement in community work, Continuing professional development, Health education: Planning and implementation, Developing skills to promote health through conducting workshops and video clip preparation, Sample size calculation techniques, How to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis, Action research

NGPA502 - Health Research Management

Conducting a focus group discussion, Interpreting quantitative research, Interpreting qualitative research, Interpreting systematic reviews & meta-analysis, Electronic bibliography and citation tools, Dissemination methods of research findings

NGPAK03 - Dissertation

Research process (Guiding to complete a research study through identifying a research problem, Reviewing the literature, Qualitative and/or quantitative research methodology, Validity, and reliability, Collecting and analysing data, discussion, conclusion, and recommendations), Writing of final dissertation

NGE9201 - Nursing Master Orientation Seminar

Orientation to postgraduate training, Successful distance learning, Innovation and informatics, APA writing tips/academic writing, Reflective journal writing, Educational technologies, Open educational resources, Presentation skills: Slide preparation and presentation, Use hands-on skills to the online platform of the MSc in Nursing programme, Ethics in e-learning, Interactive and collaborative learning, Interdisciplinary collaboration, Meeting with advisors

Scheme of Assessment

Continuous Assessments (Formative Assessments) and Eligibility

A student's progress will be assessed continuously (formative) throughout the course employing No Book Tests, quizzes, reflective journals, reflective articles, article critiques, portfolios, memo writing, discussion forums, case studies, presentations, and project reports. An Overall Continuous Assessment Mark, termed as OCAM, is computed based on marks of continuous assessment tests. Only those students who obtain the specified minimum OCAM of 50% (termed as obtaining eligibility to sit the final exam) are permitted to sit the end of semester final examination for that course.

Eligibility obtained is valid only for two academic years including the year in which the eligibility is obtained. After the lapse of eligibility obtained, you will not have the opportunity to sit the final examination to upgrade C-/D+/D/E/RX grades.

Final Examinations (Summative Assessments)

The students will be examined at the end of the semester (summative) through Final Examinations that include Final examination tests, scholarly papers, project reports, reflective journals, presentations, and viva voce.

You must apply online to sit for final examinations through MyOUSL. To apply, select the 'Exam Registration' link on the left panel and select the programme and courses as relevant to you. You will be informed when you have access to this final exam application. Usually, the deadline will be 08 weeks before the start of the examination period of each semester. Even though you have to apply before the eligibility marks are known, it is important to note that the Admission Card that permits you to sit the final exam will be generated only if you have obtained the required eligibility mark/OCAM.

If a student postpones sitting final examinations for a year under unavoidable circumstances, he/she is not required to produce medical or other letters/certificates to explain their absence. RX is the grade given for

absent students. If such absent (RX) a student sits the final examination of the course in the next year itself, he/she will not be considered a repeat or resit student for the course and will be eligible for a grade higher than a Grade C at this subsequent attempt of the final examination.

Repeat Students

Any student failing to obtain eligibility to sit the final examination for any particular course will get a Grade 'FA'. Such a student will be considered as a repeat student for that course. Such students have to re-register for that course in a subsequent year by re-paying the tuition fee. They will be required to complete the Continuous Assessments and Final Examination components again. Repeat students will not be eligible for a grade higher than Grade C for the repeat course.

Resit Candidates

Students who are eligible but fail to obtain a minimum pass mark (at least a C grade) at the final examination will be considered as resit candidates. Resit candidates need not re-register for that particular course at the subsequent registration, provided the student is sitting for the final examination before the obtained eligibility lapses. However, like repeat students, resit students are not eligible for a grade higher than a Grade C at the subsequent attempts of the final examination.

Scheme of Grading

Each student shall be awarded an overall Grade and a Grade Point Value (GPV), in respect of such a course based on the Overall Assessment Mark (Z%). Table 4 below gives the GPV awarded for courses based on marks achieved.

For each course except Dissertation (NGPAK03), the Overall Assessment Mark, "Z%" will be computed by a combination of the Continuous Assessment Mark (CAM) "X%", and the Final Examination Mark (FEM), "Y%" as follows:

$$\text{if } X \geq 50 \text{ and } Y \geq 55; Z = 0.4X + 0.6Y$$

$$\text{if } X \geq 50 \text{ and } Y \geq 50 \text{ and } < 55; Z = 0.4X + 0.6Y, \text{ subject to a maximum of } 55$$

$$\text{if } X \geq 50 \text{ and } Y < 50, Z = Y$$

Overall Assessment Mark (Z%) of the Dissertation (NGPAK03) shall be based on the Viva-voce examination (VE%) and Final Report (FR%) and shall be computed as follows:

If $VE \geq 55$ and $FR \geq 55$ then $Z = 0.3 VE + 0.7 FR$

If $VE < 55$ and/or $FR < 55$, then $Z = 0.3 VE + 0.7 FR$, subject to a maximum of 54

Table 4: Overall Assessment Marks (Z%) Ranges and Grades

Marks Range	Grade	GPV
90-100	A+	4.00
85-89	A	4.00
80-84	A-	3.70
75-79	B+	3.30
70-74	B	3.00
65-69	B-	2.70
60-64	C+	2.30
55-59	C	2.00
50-54	C-	1.70
45-49	D+	1.30
40-44	D	1.00
00-39	E	0.00

Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA)

For MSc in Nursing, GPA shall be the credit weighted mean of all the individual Grade Point Values (GPV) obtained by a candidate for sixty (60) credits of courses at Levels 9 and 10. The GPA shall be computed as follows:

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (GPV_i)(CR_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n (CR_i)}$$

where GPV_i = Grade Point Value of course i ; CR_i = credit rating of course i
 GPA shall be calculated to the second decimal place subject to a maximum of 4.00.

Contribution by each year to final GPA

Each year will contribute the GPV of course credits to the final GPA as follows:

Year 1 - 30 credits Year 2 - 30 credits

Supplementary/Make-up examinations

No supplementary examinations will be conducted for repeat students.

Supports for Learning

Academic Counselling

Each student is provided counselling during the orientation session conducted before registration to the MSc in Nursing degree programme. The counsellor will guide the students and provide greater awareness about the university, the study system and other particulars regarding the programme of study. This assistance is available throughout the study period of the student and all students are advised to make the best use of this service.

Online Access Support

The online activities could be accessed from home or the OUSL computer centres located in Regional/Study centres (Appendix 1 & 2). Use the following URL to access online courses: <https://learnousl.ou.ac.lk/>

- **Username:** Student ID Number (See personal information page of Record Book for this number - different from Registration Number).
- **Password:** National Identity Card Number

MyOUSL

MyOUSL is the student web portal that all students have to access very frequently. To access MyOUSL, use the link in the OUSL home page (<http://www.ou.ac.lk/>) OR access by typing the following: <http://myousl.ou.ac.lk/>.

The username and password are the same as above.

Information will not be posted to students. Therefore, students will need to access the MyOUSL regularly to be updated with important information.

- Registration information, timetables of academic activities, reschedules, CA Test marks, etc., will be uploaded to MyOUSL.
- All urgent information and announcements will be communicated through MyOUSL. For example, for unavoidable circumstances, if a Day School or other academic activity is postponed or cancelled, you will be informed through MyOUSL.
- Information on registered courses, results, payments made, and other general information.
- Students are also required to submit applications to sit final examinations through MyOUSL.

Student Email Account

You will get an OUSL email account when you register. The student email account is based on your unique Student ID number – for example:

- **Email account name:** Student ID Number@ousl.lk
- **Password:** National Identity Card Number

Students are required to check this email account regularly as the university will use the email facility to communicate important academic information.

Short Message Service – SMS

The university uses the SMS facility to contact students with important and urgent information. Therefore, provide your mobile number at registration to activate the service. Any SMS sent from the university will have “OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA” as the sender. SMS will provide a speedy communication channel between you and the OUSL.

Wi-Fi

Students can access the Wi-Fi network for internet access at the central campus, Nawala. You will need to apply through your department to use this facility.

The Library

The Library of the OUSL at the central campus in Nawala is a state of the art modern library equipped with facilities for internet access and e-library services. It is open to all academic staff, registered students, administrative and non-academic staff of the OUSL. Reference facilities for outsiders are available on a payment of Rs. 100.00 per day. Students can obtain the membership of the library with a refundable deposit of Rs. 5000.00

The library provides the following services:

- Borrowing books
- Access to journals
- Audio-visual resources
- Access to e-resources- e-databases and e-books
- Curriculum support
- Rehearsing facility for academic presentations
- Photocopying

The library lending and reference sections are open from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm during weekdays as well as weekends, except Poya days and the following public holidays.

- Thai Pongal Day
- Independence Day
- Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day
- May Day
- Vesak Poya Day
- Holy Prophet's Birthday
- Christmas Day

Administrative Divisions Supports for Learning

Regional Educational Services (RES)

The university has a network of Regional and Study centres distributed throughout Sri Lanka (Appendix 1 & 2). These Regional centres provide facilities for limited reference facilities at libraries. OUSL computer

laboratories at most of the Regional/Study centres (Appendix 1 & 2) provide computer and internet facilities.

Student Affairs & Welfare Division

The Student Affairs & Welfare Division located in the administrative building of the Central Campus in Nawala is responsible for maintaining all personal and academic records of the OUSL students. In case of loss of Record book or change of address, students should immediately inform the Student Affairs & Welfare Division. Students should also contact this Division for other matters about the registration of students, such as changes of the study centre, civil status etc. This Division is also dedicated to foster an environment where all students feel welcomed and respected. Some of the specific welfare functions coming under this Division are:

- Selection and approval of students for bursaries/scholarships
- Facilitate the management of Temporary Residential Facility (TRF) and other common amenities
- Initiate activities to enhance student welfare, social harmony and ethnic cohesion among students
- Entertain complaints and grievances from students
- Coordinate student counselling services

Contact details: Senior Assistant Registrar (SAR), Student Affairs & Welfare Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka, P. O. Box 21, Nugegoda. Telephone: 011- 2823920/011- 2881205

Examinations Division

Any query regarding examinations should be forwarded to the SAR/Examinations. Examinations Division will send you relevant admission forms for sitting examinations. Students may also request results sheets, and certificates from this Division by paying a relevant fee.

Contact details: Senior Assistant Registrar (Examinations), The Open University of Sri Lanka, P. O. Box 21, Nugegoda. Telephone: 011- 2881203 /011-2881350

Finance Division

The Finance Division is the administrative branch dealing with student fees. Any queries related to course fees should be forwarded to the Finance Division. The Colombo Regional Centre has a Shroff counter that is open from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with a half-hour break from 12.00 noon to 12.30 p.m. on weekdays. Payments for requesting certificates and results sheets can be made at the Shroff counter.

Contact details: Bursar, The Open University of Sri Lanka, P. O. Box 21, Nugegoda. Telephone: 011- 2881208

Other Forms of Student Supports and Welfare

Student Counselling (Non-academic Student Matters)

General counselling on non-academic student matters are available to all students through the Chief Student Counsellor and two Faculty Student Counsellors. All Students are advised to approach the following two Faculty of Health Sciences Student Counsellors in the first instance.

Mrs. K.G.P.K. Munidasa, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Nursing - Telephone: 2881000 ext-703

Dr. O.K.D.U.P. Nishshanka, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Basic Sciences - Telephone: 2881000-ext 722

Temporary Residential Facilities (TRF)

The university provides temporary residential facilities for a limited number of students for a limited period at Colombo, Kandy and Matara Regional Centres for attending academic activities. The application form to request for this facility needs to be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration or the reception desk at the TRF facility and certified by the relevant academic staff member before using this facility. The rules and regulations about the use of TRF are available on the OUSL website.

Healthcare Centre

A Healthcare centre that provides medical facilities is available at the Central Campus, Nawala for the benefit of all staff and students. The Healthcare centre is located close to the Pre School and is normally open on weekdays except on university holidays and public holidays. General Practitioner (GP) and other trained personnel provide basic first aid and medicine free of charge.

Telephone: 011-2881458

OUSL Counselling Unit

The Counselling Unit of the OUSL offers free and confidential counselling services to promote the mental health and well-being of the students and staff. Professional Counsellors provide individual, couple and group counselling as well as workshops and talks on relevant aspects of mental health. Anyone who has work or exam stress and adjustment issues, relationship or family issues, personality problems, long-term illness, drug and alcohol problems, or any other issue affecting day to day life or disturb the concentration on studies can seek help from the Counselling Unit. The Counselling Unit is administered by the Department of Psychology &

Counselling. More details can be obtained from their webpage or by directly contacting the Unit.

Location and contact details: Counselling Unit, Healthcare Centre, Nawala. Telephone: 011-2881361; Mobile: 0702510820 (WhatsApp available) Email: counsellor@ou.ac.lk

Physical Education Division and Sports Activities

The Physical Education Division is dedicated to facilitating sports activities and the participation of students in sports events organized by other higher education institutions. The OUSL Sports Week is a major event organised by the university for students.

Canteens

Meals and other refreshments can be purchased from the university canteens at reasonable prices. Canteens are located at Nawala, both in the Central Campus (near the Administration Block) and the Colombo Regional Centre (near the Faculty of Health Sciences premises). The canteens provide services on all weekdays and weekends except on university holidays.

Facilities for Payments of Fees

Payment facilities are available to students at the Shroff counter in the new Colombo Regional Centre Building (adjoining registration area). It is open on weekdays from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm, with a lunch break in between. You may also make tuition fee payments at any Peoples Bank (the closest branch is at the Nawala-Narahenpita Junction).

Photocopying Facilities

Photocopying facilities are available at the library and Natural Sciences Alumni Association photocopy centre at reasonable rates.

Career Guidance Unit

This Unit is located in the Colombo Regional Centre Building at Nawala and conducts activities to help OUSL students and graduates to enhance their career development skills and to optimise employment opportunities available to them.

University Students' Union

The Open University Student's Union (OUSU) is the legitimate body that represents students. The main objective of the OUSU is to represent the needs of all OUSL students at the university, at the national and international level. The OUSU will be the bridging mechanism between the students and the university administration. Each faculty also has a Faculty-Student Union, including two Faculty Board representatives. The members/representatives are elected by ballot; elections, nominations,

voting, etc., are governed by By-Law No. 03, as amended. More information is available on the OUSL website.

Co-Curricular Activities

Societies/Associations in the university organise many social, cultural, religious and educational activities/functions that students can take part in. The Health Web of the OUSL is the staff-student society of the Faculty of Health Sciences that aims to regularly organise guest lectures and other co-curricular activities, to broaden the knowledge and skills of the students.

Course Fee

Fees	Per Student (Rs)
Tuition Fee (Rs. 4700.00 per credit x 60 Credits)	282,000.00
Registration Fee	1500.00
Facility Fee	2500.00
Library Facility Fee	200.00
Library-Refundable	5000.00
Viva Voce Examination	1000.00
Use of Computer Lab (Annual)	5000.00
** Foreign Student Fees	
Developed Countries	US\$ 236 (per credit)
Developing Countries	US\$ 118 (per credit)

Note: The fees stated in the postgraduate guidebook are applicable for the academic year 2023/2024 and may be subject to change in subsequent years.

**Teaching Panel of the MSc in Nursing degree programme
(Internal)**



Dr. (Mrs.) K.A. Sriyani
Head
Senior Lecturer Grade I
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL),
PhD (USJ), RN*
011288325
hdnurse@ou.ac.lk,
kasri@ou.ac.lk



Dr. B. Sunil S. De Silva
Senior Lecturer Grade I
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL), MN
(RES) (ACU, Melbourne), PhD
(UNM, USA), RN*
bssil@ou.ac.lk



Ms. A.V. Pramuditha Madhavi
Senior Lecturer Grade I
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL),
MN (RU, Toronto), Reading for
PhD, RN, RM*
avpma@ou.ac.lk



Ms. P.W.G.D.P. Samarasekara
Senior Lecturer Grade I
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL),
PGDDE (OUSL), MPhil (UOK),
RN, RM*
pwsam@ou.ac.lk



Dr. (Mrs.) W.N. Priyanthi
Senior Lecturer Grade II
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL),
PhD (UOC), RN*
wnpri@ou.ac.lk



Ms. K.G.P.K. Munidasa
Senior Lecturer Grade II
*BSc Hons Nursing (OUSL),
MPhil (UOP), RN*
kgmun@ou.ac.lk



Dr. Harith Eranga Yapa
Senior Lecturer Grade II
*BSc Hons Nursing (USJ), PhD
(QUT, Brisbane), AFHEA (UK),
RN*
heyap@ou.ac.lk

Other Staff of the Department of Nursing



**Ms. G.G.W. Chamali
Wijesekara
Lecturer
(On Study Leave)**

*BSc (Hons) Nursing (USJ), MN
(HKR, Sweden), FHEA (UK),
Reading for PhD, RN*
ggwij@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. M. Laavanya
Lecturer (Probationary)
(ARC) (On Study Leave)**
*BSc (Hons) Nursing (EUSL),
FHEA (UK), Reading for PhD*
mllaav@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. H.U.C. Nuwansala
Lecturer (Probationary)**
BSc Nursing (Sp) (USJ), RN
hunuw@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. N.R. Kuruppu
Lecturer (Probationary)
(On Study Leave)**
*BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOR),
PhD
(Reading)*
nrkur@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. P.N. Hewabitage
Lecturer (Probationary)
(On Study Leave)**

*PhD (Reading)
BSc (Hons) Nursing (OUSL), RN*
pnhev@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. A.S.P.L. Senadheera
Lecturer (Probationary)
(BaRC)**

BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOP), RN
assen@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. A.S.K. Kodagoda
Lecturer (Probationary)**

BSc (Hons) Nursing (USJ), RN
askod@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. N. M. Patterson
Lecturer (Probationary)**

*BSc (Hons) Nursing (USJ),
RN*
nmpat@ou.ac.lk



**Ms. K.H.U.S. Keerthisinghe
Academic Coordinator
ARC**

BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOR)
Umandakeerthisinghe93@gmail.com



**Ms. S.D.T.H. Thilakarathne
Lecturer (On contract)
KuRC**

*BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOR), Dip
in Counselling (Kelaniya)*
harinalochanat@gmail.com



**Ms. J.M.M.C. Jayasinghe
Lecturer (On contract)
JRC**

BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOJ)
malki96127@gmail.com



**Ms. D.M. Madurika
Lecturer (On contract)
MRC**

BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOP), RN
dmmadurika@gmail.com



Mr. M.I. Asthak Ahamed
Academic Coordinator
BRC
BSc (Hons) Nursing (UOJ), RN
 Ahamedrw246@gmail.com



Ms. W.T.S. Induroshi
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Nursing (KDU)
 sanuraindurosi@gmail.com



Ms. C.S.D. Serasinghe
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Speech and Language
Therapy (Kelaniya)
 dilhanishashikala1996@gmail.com



Ms. V.R. Wijesiriwardana
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (KDU)
 visanirandula@gmail.com



Ms. L. A. Gordon
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (KDU)
 ashengordon@gmail.com



Ms. R.I.D.L. Rajapaksha
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (KDU)
 rdilrajapakse96@gmail.com



Mr. K.C.U Perera
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences
(KIU)
 Perera.chathura1@gmail.com



Ms. N.K.G. Manodya
Demonstrator
BSc (Hons) Nursing (KDU)
 gayathsc@gmail.com



Mr. W I S Fernando
Demonstrator
 Dip in Nursing (OUSL), B.Sc
 (Hons) in Nursing (University
 of Sunderland-UK), Dip in
 Counselling & Mental Health
 (NCMH-Colombo)
 wisrinath@gmail.com



Ms. A.C.N. Athukorala
Computer Application
Assistant



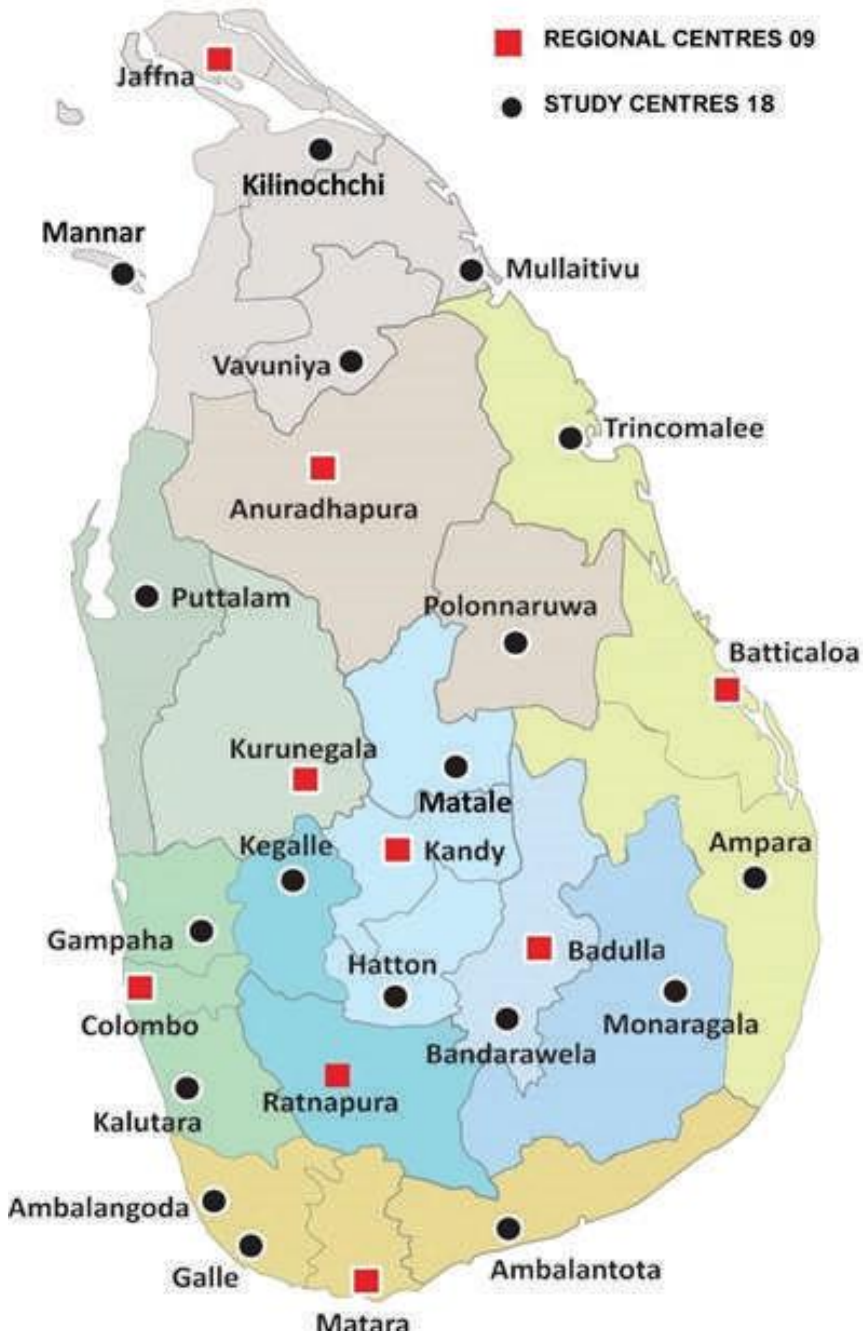
Mr. M.D.D. Kumarasiri
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. A. G. D. Ransara
Works Aide

Appendix 1

Regional and Study Centres of the OUSL



Appendix 2

Regional and Study Centre Contact Details

Centre	Centre Code	Postal Address	Contact No.
Regional Centres			
Colombo	WP10	OURC, Nawala, Nugegoda.	011-2853930 Ext.380 Staff:281,630,464,420, 621
Kandy	CP20	OURC, Polgolla, Kandy.	081-2494083 084/495/ 496/ 497
Matara	SP30	OURC, Nupe, Matara.	041-2222943 041- 2229782
Batticaloa	EP60	OURC, No.23, New Road, Batticaloa.	065-2222264
Jaffna	NP40	OURC, Browns Road, Kokuvil, Jaffna.	021-2223374
Anuradhapura	NC50	OURC, Jayanthi Mawatha, (Depot Area), Anuradhapura.	025-2222871
Badulla	UP80	OURC, No. 18/1, Bandaranayake Mw., Badulla.	055-3012151/ 055-2228842
Kurunegala	NW70	OURC, Negombo Rd., Nissanka Mw Junction, Malkaduwwa, Kurunegala.	037- 2223473
Ratnapura	SG90	OURC, No.397, New Town, Ratnapura.	045-2228660
Study Centres			
Ambalanthota	SP33	OUSC, Rajasaranagama Road, Lunama South, Ambalanthota.	047-2225533
Ampara	EP61	OUSC, Inginiyagala Road, Samapura, Ampara.	063-2222052
Bandarawela	UP81	OUSC, St. Thomas Road, Wewatenna, Bandarawela.	057-2222820
Galle	SP32	OUSC, Labuduwa, Galle.	091-2223784
Gampaha	WP11	OUSC, Gampaha Road, Miriswatte, Mudungoda.	033-2234571 033-2234572
Hatton	CP21	OUSC, St. Gabriel Convent, Hatton.	051-2225139
Kalutara	WP12	OUSC, No 66/2, Nagoda Road, Kaluthara.	034-2223399 034-2223286
Kegalle	SG91	OUSC, Kumaratunge Munidasa Mawatha, Kegalle.	035-2222501
Killinochchi	NP42	OUSC, 155th Mile Post, Kandy Road, Killinochchi.	021-2283970
Mannar	NP44	OUSC, RDS Building, Minor Seminary Rd, Chavatkaddu, Mannar.	023-2251999
Matale	CP22	OUSC, No 09, MC Road, Matale	066-2058083
Moneragala	UP82	OUSC, Technical college Junction, Sirigala, Potuvil Road, Moneragala.	055-2277395
Mullaitivu	NP43	OUSC, Oddusudan Road, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu.	021-2290868
Polonnaruwa	NC51	OUSC, 24th Post, Bendiwewa Jayanthipura, Polonnaruwa.	027-2225776
Puttalam	NW71	OUSC, No 1/137, Colombo Road, Puttalam.	032-2266822
Vavuniya	NP41	OUSC, No. 366, Kandy Road, Thekkawaththai, Vavuniya.	024-2222995
Trincomalee	EP62	OUSC, No 26/A, Post Office Rd, Trincomalee.	026-2222088

Note: OURC: Open University Regional Centre; OUSC: Open University Study Centre

Appendix 4

Important Dates to Remember

Activity	Date
Selection Test	
Online selection test	22.10.2022 (9.30am-11.00am)
Releasing selection test results	30.11.2022
New Registration	
Academic counselling	19.12.2022 at CRC
New registration/Re-registration	19 th & 20 th December 2022 at CRC 20 th December 2022 at All RCs/SCs
Add/Drop, Drop	18.01.2023 at All RCs/SCs
Academic Activities 2022/23	
Academic Year 1	
Semester 1	
Academic Period	06.01.2023 to 20.05.2023
Period to submit online applications for final examinations	01.03.2023 to 01.04.2023
Eligibility/OCAM	20.05.2023
Final examinations	19.06.2023 to 30.06.2023
Results	20.07.2023
Semester II	
Academic Period	15.07.2023 to 31.10.2023
Period to submit online applications for final examinations	15.08.2023 to 15.09.2023
Eligibility/OCAM	01.11.2023
Final examinations	25.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
Results	30.12.2023

Appendix 5

Student Responsibilities

- Respect the rights of others and work cooperatively and collaboratively with all students and staff.
- Maintain the highest standards of academic and personal integrity.
- Use University property, equipment, and facilities responsibly.
- Refrain from actions that endanger the health, safety, or welfare of any member of the University community or its visitors.
- Do not engage in discrimination, harassment, victimisation or ragging
- Comply with University By-laws, Rules and Regulations and report any violations to the authorities.
 - General By Law for Student Discipline, No 02, as amended
 - Regulation on Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishments, No. 1 of 1996, as amended
 - Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act, No.20 of 1998
- Adhere to the policies, procedures and rules of external organisations while on internships/work placements/clinical practicum.
- Safeguard the good name of the University.

It is very important to understand that the failure to fulfil any of these responsibilities is a basis for disciplinary action; punishments imposed for misconduct can be very serious, including suspension from the University.

This is OUR University. Let us all be committed to a learning and working environment which is supportive, fair and safe for all members of the University community.

