



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Regulations for the Award of
Master of Philosophy Degree

Regulation No: 26.OU.1
Effective Date: 31. 07. 2020

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF
THE MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

These Regulations were prepared under Section 136 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 read in conjunction with The Open University Ordinance No. 1 of 1990 (as amended).

Part I – General

- 1.1. This Regulation shall be cited as the Regulation No. *[Regulation no.]* of 2019 approved by the Council of The Open University of Sri Lanka at its *[Council Number]* meeting held on *[Date], [Month],[Year]* and shall be deemed to be the consolidated Regulation for the award of the Master of Philosophy Degree.
- 1.2. This Regulation for the Award of the Master of Philosophy Degree shall be made by the Senate and approved by the Council.
- 1.3. A student who has successfully completed the prescribed Programme of Study shall be awarded the Master of Philosophy Degree [MPhil] in accordance with the General By-Law No. 1 for the Award of Certificates, Advanced Certificates, Diplomas, Higher Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Post Graduate Degrees and Higher Degrees, By-Law No. 26 for the award of Research Degrees and this Regulation for the award of the Master of Philosophy Degree .
- 1.4. This Regulation shall come into effect from the academic year *[Academic Year]*.

Part II - Eligibility for Admission to the Programme of Study

- 2.1. A person seeking admission to the Programme of Study leading to the award of the Master of Philosophy shall be required to have,
 - 2.1.1. A qualification of Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 7 or above in the relevant field, or,
 - 2.1.2. A Bachelor's Honours Degree at Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 6 with a minimum of thirty (30) course credits in the relevant field.
- 2.2. Applicants who do not possess any of the above qualifications in Section 2.1, but possess the following qualifications may be accepted for provisional registration subject to the approval of the Senate in accordance with Section 3.4 and its Sub Sections of the By- Law No. 26 for the award of Research Degrees.
 - 2.2.1. A Bachelor's Degree of Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 5 with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the scale of 0-4 or Second Class (Lower Division) in the same or related field, or,
 - 2.2.2. Completion of NVQ Level 7 with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the scale of 0-4 as determined by the Senate.
- 2.3. An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate.

Part III - Registration for the Programme of Study leading to the Award of the Master of Philosophy

- 3.1. A person may register for the Programme of Study subject to the conditions as laid down in the General By-law.
- 3.2. To be eligible to register for the Programme of Study a person shall have satisfied the prerequisites as specified by the relevant Faculty.
- 3.3. Registration shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of registration and shall be renewable, subjected to a maximum of five (05) years.
- 3.4. Subject to the specified entry qualifications in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the Regulation for the Doctor of Philosophy Programme, a candidate registered for the MPhil Degree in the University may, on the recommendation made by his/her supervisor/s, the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty, based on an evaluation of his/her proposal and presentation to a Panel of Reviewers comprising two (02) experts in the field of study outside the University with at least one (01) from outside Sri Lanka, appointed by the Senate upon recommendation of the relevant Faculty, shall be permitted to upgrade his/her registration to the PhD Degree as specified in Section 3.4.2 of the Regulation for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programme.

Part IV - Programme of Study

- 4.1. A candidate for the Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) shall undertake a research programme leading to the submission of a thesis after a period of not less than two (02) years and not exceeding five (05) years. Any exception to this period may be granted under special circumstances as specifically determined by the Senate.

Part V - Submission of Thesis

- 5.1. A candidate for the Degree of Master of Philosophy shall undertake a research programme leading to the submission of a thesis not less than two years after registration. The thesis shall include a critical review of the literature and provide evidence of the candidate's research ability and shall be a distinct contribution to scholarship in the selected field of study.

Part VI -Revisions

- 6.1. This Regulation may be revised, amended or repealed as and when deemed necessary by the Council.
- 6.2. Such revisions, amendments or repeals shall come into effect as determined by the Senate and approved by the Council.