



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Regulations for the Award of
Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Regulation No: 26.OU.2
Effective Date: 31. 07.2020

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF
THE DOCTOR 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 Doctor of Philosophy Degree.
- 1.2. This Regulation for the Award of the Doctor 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 Doctor of Philosophy Degree [PhD] 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 Doctor 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 Doctor of Philosophy shall be required to have,
 - 2.1.1. A Master of Philosophy Degree, or,
 - 2.1.2. A Master's Degree at Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) Level 9 or above preferably in the related field with a significant research component, or,
 - 2.1.3. A Bachelor's Honours Degree of Level 6 in the relevant field with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the scale 0-4 or Second Class (Lower Division).
- 2.2. Applicants who do not possess any of the above qualifications in Section 2.1, but possesses 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.
 - 2.2.1. A Bachelor's Honours Degree of Level 6 with a minimum of 30 course credits in a related field, or,
 - 2.2.2. A Bachelor's Honours Degree of Level 6 with registration for an MPhil Degree.
- 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 Doctor of Philosophy

- 3.1. A person may register for the Programme of 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 seven (07) years.
- 3.4. Subject to the specified entry qualifications in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this Regulation, 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 of 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 below.
 - 3.4.1. An upgrade of registration shall be entertained only after completing one (01) academic year from the date of first registration, provided minimum of two (02) years of research be carried out by the candidate after upgrading registration.
 - 3.4.2. Candidate shall submit a comprehensive revised proposal based on the work already completed and highlighting the new areas that the candidate intends to undertake for the doctoral studies.
 - 3.4.3. A Panel of Evaluators of not less than two, at least one of whom shall be from outside the University, in the specialized area relevant to the subject, shall be appointed by the Faculty to evaluate the revised proposal for its suitability for an upgrade to a PhD.
 - 3.4.4. Provided the proposal is recommended for an upgrade, the candidate shall be required to make a presentation, following which the Dean in consultation with the Panel of Evaluators and the Faculty Research Committee shall make a recommendation to the Higher Degrees and Research Committee.
 - 3.4.5. Transfer of a candidate in term of Section 3.4 above shall be with retrospective effect from the date of the original registration for the higher degree.
- 3.5. A candidate who does not satisfy the requirements specified under Section 3.4 of the By-laws for the award of the Research degrees and its Sub Sections shall have his/her provisional registration in the PhD programme cancelled.
 - 3.5.1. If the candidate, however, attains a level of achievement acceptable for registration to follow the MPhil Degree in The Open University of Sri Lanka, she/he may, with the recommendation of the supervisor/s, Head of the

Department and Dean of the relevant Faculty, be permitted to transfer the registration for the MPhil Degree. In such an event, the registration shall be effective from the date of registration as a provisional candidate for the PhD Degree.

Part IV - Programme of Study

- 4.1. A candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) shall undertake a research programme leading to the submission of a thesis after a period of not less than three (03) years and not exceeding seven (07) 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 Doctor of Philosophy shall undertake a research programme leading to the submission of a thesis not less than three years after registration. The thesis shall include a critical review of the literature and provide evidence of the candidate's ability to carry out high quality, original and independent research, creating new knowledge 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.