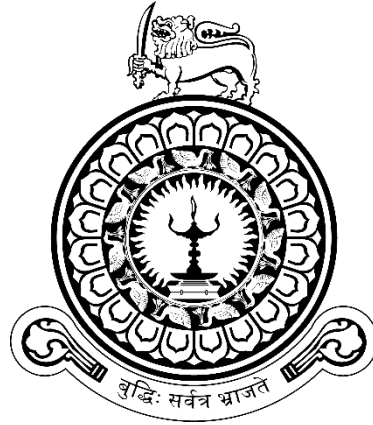


Students' Guidebook

**Master of Philosophy (MPhil) / Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Geography
(2022-2025)**



**Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts
University of Colombo
Sri Lanka**

Introduction

The MPhil program is essential for a prospective researcher at the predoctoral level. The program is designed to build the research capacity of scholars from wide range of backgrounds and provide a strong orientation in different areas of the field of Geography. MPhil program consists Core courses and the courses related to Area of Specialization. In addition, all the students should be provided with a (dissertation or thesis) based on an independent research. The course will also include an advance seminar in which students will present a paper on any educational theme in a research colloquium and clear a viva voce examination.

Eligibility

- (i) A two-year Master's degree with either coursework and research or research from a recognized university/institution in a discipline relevant/related to the proposed research (an entry-level qualification equivalent to SLQF Level 10);
- (ii) A one-year Master's degree from a recognized university/institution, with experience and/or research in the relevant field (an entry-level qualification equivalent to SLQF Level 9 plus experience and/or research in the relevant field);
- (iii) A Bachelor's Honours degree in the relevant field **or** related subject with a First Class pass from a recognized university/institution, with experience and/or research in the relevant field (an entry-level qualification equivalent to SLQF Level 6)

Duration

The duration of the course will be two academic year. The student is to submit his/her dissertation within 15 days from the date of the end of the Second Semester. However, if a student is not able to submit his/her dissertation he/she will be allowed to complete his/her dissertation within six months after the terminal examination.

Educational aims

The MPhil is offered by the Department of Geography as a full-time period of research and introduces students to research skills and specialist knowledge.

Its main aims are:

- to give students with relevant training at the first-degree level the opportunity to carry out focused research in Geography under close supervision;
- to allow students to acquire or develop skills and expertise relevant to their research interests;
- to enable students to acquire a critical and well-informed understanding of the roles of Geography in society; and

- to help students intending to go on to doctoral work to acquire the requisite research skills and prepare a well-planned and focused Ph.D. proposal.

By:

- i. giving students the experience and guidance necessary for them to be able to formulate a realistic research proposal, and to prepare written work based on such a proposal to a strict timetable;
- ii. giving students the experience of presenting their work and discussing the issues that arise from it with an audience of their peers and senior members of the department;
- iii. providing series of workshops, research seminars and field observations in a range of research methodology, geo-techniques, statistics and specific subjects central to research in the different areas of Geography and Environmental Studies allowing students to base some of their essays or dissertation on such teaching.

Courses of Study

The M.Phil. (Geography) the curriculum comprises four components, namely,

1. Core Seminar Series
 - a. Advanced Research Methodology
 - b. Statistical Applications in Geography
 - c. Geospatial analytics and Mapping Techniques
 - d. Population, Globalization and Sustainable Development
 - e. Understanding Environmental Pollution and Management
 - f. Climate change adaptation
 - g. Disasters Risk Management
 - h. Biogeography
 - i. Soil science and hydrology
 - j. Tourism and Sustainability
2. Research Practice (Dissertation)
3. Advance Seminars / Guest lectures
4. Viva Voce

Research topics must be chosen from the following subject areas:

1. Biodiversity, Conservation and Management
2. Environment and Sustainable Development
3. Nature, Society and Environmental Governance
4. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
5. Geography and Regional Development
6. Transport Geography
7. Climate and Disaster Resilience

8. Landforms, Geomorphology and Geo-environmental Applications
9. Spatial Planning and Sustainable Cities
10. Global urbanism and Sustainability
11. Tourism and Recreation
12. Population and urbanization
13. Hydrology and Soil

Programme Duration

| Programme | SLQF level | Official Program Duration | Maximum Extensions | Maximum Re-registration | Total Duration from the Date of Registration |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| MPhil | 11 | 2 years | 3 years | 1 year* | 5 years |
| PhD | 12 | 3 years | 4 years | 1 year* | 7 years |

*The re-registration period is allowed subject to making relevant fees. The continuation fee will be 50% of normal academic fees and the annual registration fee.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. developed a deeper knowledge of their chosen areas of Geography, and the critical debates within them selected subject area;
2. acquired a conceptual understanding that enables the evaluation of current research and methodologies;
3. formed a critical view of the roles of Geography in society.
4. acquired or consolidated geographical, technical, field base practical and ancillary skills appropriate for research in their chosen area;
5. demonstrated independent judgment, based on their research work;
6. presented their ideas in a public forum and learned to contribute constructively within national and international levels.

Teaching and Learning

(1) (2) and (3) are developed through:

- personal study;
- participation in the weekly M.Phil. seminars/workshops, the departmental seminar, and other seminars graduate training workshops and reading groups;

- attendance at lectures;
- regular one-to-one supervision;
- general supervision by the M.Phil. coordinator, and in the case of students intending to go on to the PhD, by the Departmental Director of Graduate Studies.

(4) through:

- basic research methods taught through seminars/workshops and supervision.

(5) is developed through personal study and individual supervision for the essays and dissertation;

(6) is developed through preparation for and feedback from the presentation of papers at the different levels of forums.

Assessment

(1) to (4) are assessed through three essays and a dissertation.

(5) And (6) are assessed based on the student's presentation of their work and their comments on set readings, at the weekly MPhil seminar.

Program structure

The candidate shall meet the Supervisor/s regularly, as arranged, to report on the progress made on the research. Each time the candidate meets the Supervisor/s, she/he shall obtain the Supervisor's observations on the progress achieved up to that point and the signature of the Supervisor/s on the official form provided to the candidate.

At the end of every six months, the candidate shall submit a progress report on his/her research work, through the Supervisor/s. The progress report shall be submitted to the Head of the Department through the Coordinator to be forwarded to the Higher Degrees Committee for information.

The candidate shall be required to make oral presentations annually on the progress of his/her research. This will be arranged by the Coordinator in consultation with the Head of the Department.

Requirements to be Completed

| Requirements to be Completed | MPhil |
|---|--------------|
| Obtaining Ethical Clearance (Optional) | Yes |
| Number of Progress Reports | 4 |
| Number of Progress Presentations | 2 |
| Skills Development Programme | Yes |
| Research Publications (Peer reviewed journals) Maximum two publications | 2 |

The thesis for the degree of **Master of Philosophy** shall be between 50,000 and 65,000 words and necessary tables, figures and creative components prepared according to the guidelines prescribed by the Department. 18.5.

The degree of Master of Philosophy may be conferred on any person who

- (i) has been registered as a Postgraduate Research student in the MPhil programme of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo,
- (ii) has thereafter, pursued an approved program of research for at least two years' duration
- (iii) has paid such registration and other fees as prescribed; and
- (iv) (iv) has fulfilled the following conditions: Approved at the University Council's 576th meeting on 13.01.2021
- (v) (a) the presentation of a thesis approved by the Supervisor/s on an approved research topic accepted by the Senate
(b) the acceptance of the thesis by the Board of Examiners
(c) success at a viva-voce examination.

The thesis for the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** shall be between 70,000 and 100,000 words, including all content in the chapters of the thesis, and excluding front and back matter. 22.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be conferred on any person who,

- (i) has been registered as a student in the PhD programme, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo
- (ii) has thereafter pursued an approved programme of research of at least three years of duration.
- (iii) has paid such registration and other fees as prescribed, and
- (iv) has fulfilled the following:
 - (a) submitted a thesis recommended by the Supervisor/s on the approved research topic accepted by the Senate
 - (b) the thesis has been accepted by the Board of Examiners.
 - (c) succeeded at a viva-voce examination.

PhD by publication;

- The candidate shall obtain provisional registration for the proposed degree by paying the provisional registration, preliminary evaluation and other relevant fees as prescribed.
- The published work to be considered for the degree shall be original work and of a standard required from the thesis of the degree.
- The candidate should present three publications published in peer-reviewed indexed journals.
- The published work shall be evaluated first by a panel of experts at the Faculty of Arts appointed with the approval of the Higher Degrees Committee, the Faculty Board and the Senate.

- If the candidate has been successful at such preliminary evaluation, she/he shall seek a formal registration by paying the relevant fees.
- Thereafter, the process will be followed according to the provisions in these By-Laws and providing that the candidate has paid such registration and other fees as prescribed; and has fulfilled the following conditions:
 - (a) the presentation of published work;
 - (b) the acceptance of published work by the Board of Examiners; and
 - (c) success at a viva-voce examination.

Maintenance of intellectual integrity including research ethics and avoidance of plagiarism shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate when the thesis is prepared for submission. He/she working on the research should be fully aware of the necessity of ensuring and upholding intellectual integrity including research ethics and desist from any act of plagiarism.

In case of violation of this condition, the Higher Degrees Committee, through the Faculty Board shall recommend to the Senate to take action against such candidate according to the university rules relating to plagiarism under examination offences and punishments.

Upgrading to PhD

1. The Faculty shall consider upgrading a candidate registered for the M.Phil Degree to PhD level after a minimum period of one year provided that his/ her research competencies are of exceptional merit.
2. The Supervisor/s shall make a written request to the Coordinator of the programme for upgrading to PhD level.
3. The candidate shall submit the following documents for upgrading.
 - i. the report of the progress of research;
 - ii. at least three draft chapters of the thesis and/or
 - iii. any other publications and/or conference papers presented during the study period.
4. The Coordinator shall make a written request along with the recommendation of Supervisor(s) to the Higher Degrees Committee to appoint two Examiners to evaluate the submitted chapters for upgrading.
5. Upon the receipt of evaluation reports of the Examiners, the Coordinator shall arrange an upgrading presentation before an expert panel. The panel shall be appointed by the Higher Degrees Committee on the recommendation of the Head of the Department. The panel shall determine the suitability of the candidate for upgrading to PhD level or determine if the candidate should continue with the MPhil programme.

Graduate employability

The Careers Service maintains links with relevant employers and takes into account employer needs and opinions in the services which is provides for students. The Careers Service also allocates a Careers Adviser to each faculty and department to act as a point of contact.

Fee Structure

| Category of Student and Fee Type | MPhil SLQF 11 | PhD SLQF 12 |
|---|--|--|
| | Min. 2 years part/ full-time research and coursework (Thesis equivalent to 60 credits) | Min. 3 years part/ full-time research and coursework (Thesis equivalent to 90 credits) |
| Local Student (LKR) | | |
| Application Fee | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Registration Fee | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Academic Fee | 200,000 | 350,000 |
| Library Fee | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Foreign Students (US \$) | | |
| Application Fee | 25 | 25 |
| Registration Fee | 100 | 100 |
| Academic Fee for a student from SAARC Countries and clergy from foreign countries | 2,300 | 3,700 |
| Academic Fee for a student from Non-SAARC Countries | 2,800 | 4,500 |
| Library Fee | 60 | 60 |
| MPhil leading to PhD programme (For the third-year fee only) ** | | |
| Local Student (LKR) | 200,000** | |
| Foreign Students - SAARC (US \$) | 2500** | |
| Foreign Students – Non -SAARC (US \$) | 2500** | |

Payment scheme:

- **Students can pay the fee in two installments: (a) Students have the option to pay the first installment (50% of academic fee) in the first year and the second installment (balance 50%) at the beginning of the second year.**

**** If the student is recommended for upgrading MPhil degree to PhD, then they will need to pay the amount mentioned above for their academic fee for the third year.**