

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS

By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under Section 135 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978

Whereas, the University of Colombo has been conducting degree programmes leading to the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours Degrees since 2001 under the titles of ‘Bachelor of Arts General’ and ‘Bachelor of Arts Special’ under the By-Laws made in that year;

Whereas the said By-Laws have been subsequently amended by the University and the said programme have been conducted in terms of the said amended By-Laws and that students have been registered under the said By-Laws whose registration is still in operation;

Whereas the University Grants Commission has published Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) norms, duration, credit points and related matters of different levels of academic qualifications and has impressed upon the University to revise the existing program to bring them in line with the requirements of the published Sri Lanka Qualification Framework;

Whereas it has now become necessary to revise and revamp the programmes leading to the Bachelor of Arts (< Study Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours to bring them on par with the requirements laid down in the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework as updated and published by the University Grants Commission in 2015;

Whereas a new batch of students has been admitted to the University under the newly revised curriculum approved by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts, the Senate and the Council of the University of Colombo in terms of which approval the students have been following the said revamped and revised programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts (<Study Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours and;

Whereas it has currently become necessary to enact By-Laws to prescribe the revised and revamped curriculum and other provisions including those relating to procedural and substantive aspects of the programs;

The Council of the University of Colombo, on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts enacts the following By Laws.

By-Laws

1. (1) These By-Laws may be cited as the Bachelor of Arts (<Study Stream>) or/and Bachelor of Arts Honours in the respective fields of study By-Laws17... of 2021.
(2) These By-Laws shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from2020.

Part I - GENERAL

2. Subject to these By-Laws, a student may be awarded the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours if he/she,

- (a) has been admitted to the University as a student under section 15 (vii) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978;
 - (b) has been a duly registered student of the University for the period prescribed for courses of study leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours and his/her registration continues to be in force;
 - (c) has completed to the satisfaction of the Senate the courses of study for each of the academic years leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours as prescribed by these By-Laws, and the Regulations and Rules made by the University in respect of each of the courses leading to the said Degree;
 - (d) has satisfied all the course requirements leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours as set out in Parts III and IV of these By-Laws;
 - (e) has paid such fees as shall be prescribed by the University and any other dues payable by him/her to the University;
 - (f) has fulfilled all other conditions and requirements as prescribed by these By-Laws and the Regulations and Rules of the University.
3. Subject to these By-Laws the minimum period of study for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) (with minimum 90 credits) and Bachelor of Arts Honours (with minimum 120 credits) shall be three and four years respectively. This includes the first year of the undergraduate study. The maximum period within which the student should complete the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) (with minimum 90 credits) and Bachelor of Arts Honours (with minimum 120 credits) shall be 6 and 8 years respectively from the date of registration.

4. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) shall consist of a main subject which is the title subject, and two other subjects and foundation (FND) and enhancement (ENH) courses as prescribed by these By-Laws, Regulations and Rules of the University as follows:

4.1.(a) The course of study leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) shall consist of –

- (i) First Year Course Units
- (ii) Second Year Course Units, and
- (iii) Third Year Course Units.

(b) A student shall offer

- (i) 30 credits of First Year Course Units,
 - (ii) 30 credits of Second Year Course Units, and
 - (iii) 30 credits of Third Year Course Units,
- totalling 90 credit course units in all.

5. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts Honours shall consist of courses in a main subject and of subsidiary or optional courses as may have been prescribed by these By-Laws, Regulations and Rules of the University as follows:

5.1 (a) The course of study leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Honours shall consist of –

- (i) First Year Course Units
- (ii) Second Year Course Units
- (iii) Third Year Course Units, and
- (iv) Fourth Year Course Units.

(b) A student shall offer

- (i) 30 credits of First Year Course Units,
- (ii) 30 credits of Second Year Course Units,
- (iii) 30 credits of Third Year Course Units and
- (iv) 30 credits of Fourth Year Course Units,

totalling 120 credit course units in all.

6. Where the first numeral describing the Course Unit will denote the year, the second numeral denotes the semester and the third and fourth numerals denote the subject code. The number of credits assigned shall be calculated according to notional hours. Fifty (50) notional hours shall be considered as one credit.
7. The subject combination, the titles and syllabi of course units offered in each subject area, the nature of individual systems of evaluation, and other relevant requirements leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours shall be prescribed by regulations and rules made by the Senate, and contained in the Undergraduate Prospectus of the Faculty of Arts.
8. The Senate shall have the power, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board to change, from time to time, amend or add to the subject areas, course units, syllabi, and to change or amend or add any Regulations and Rules relating to any of the requirements leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and/or Bachelor of Arts Honours. Adequate notice shall be given to the students of any such amendments, changes or additions.
9. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours shall be conducted under the semester system with continuous assessments and/or end semester examination for each course unit. The

students shall complete both continuous assessments and/or the end semester examination in order to qualify for a pass.

10. If a student has not completed 50% of any required continuous assessment/s, he/she shall not be entitled to sit for the end-semester examination. Any student who completes the mid-semester continuous assessment/s so however, fails to take any end-semester examination due to some reason/s as the Senate may determine as a valid reason shall have the status of Incomplete (IC) and shall be entitled to carry forward his/her mid-semester marks up to two years until he/she completes the end-semester examination for the relevant course unit.
11. The Final (or end-of-semester) Examinations as prescribed by these By-Laws shall be conducted by Boards of Examiners appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board. A Board of Examiners-
 - (a) shall, if the Senate has on the recommendation of the Faculty Board so decided, test any candidate in writing and/or orally and may adopt any other forms of evaluation,
and
 - (b) May take into consideration the assessment/s (offline/online/ blended learning-based), i.e. including but not limiting to class presentations, reports, and/or practical courses/field training/internships done during any courses of study prescribed for any of the examinations.
12. A candidate shall present himself/herself for each end of semester (or final) examination of Course Units leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and Bachelor of Arts Honours on the first occasion on which the examination is held after the completion of any relevant Course Unit/s taken by that candidate, provided that it shall be within the power of the Senate to permit him/her to sit on a subsequent occasion if he/she has

been prevented from sitting the examination due to illness or any other cause as may be determined by the Senate as a valid and reasonable cause. In such cases where permission has been obtained, a candidate may complete the said Course Unit/s for the award of the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degrees without any penalty.

13. A candidate shall be deemed to have failed a particular Course Unit if he/she has scored less than Grade Point 2.00 or 45% for that Unit. Candidates shall repeat all Course Units so failed and obtain a score of Grade Point 2.00 or 45% or above or obtain a score of at least Grade Point 2.00 or 45% in another course approved by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts in the same subject in order to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree. A candidate may, however, apply to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts for permission to offer another comparable Course Unit in another subject in place of the one he/she has failed. The Grade Point Average herein after referred to as 'GPA' for the comparable subject shall be 2.00.
14. A candidate may request for verification of his/her end semester examination marks and grades. Verification process will be limited only to check accuracy of addition, computation and transcription (ACT Verification) and not for re-marking of scripts.
15. Evaluation Criteria for Awarding Honours and Passes in the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degrees shall be as follows:

(a) Explanation of undergraduate grades and Grade Points

Grade Point Value (GPV) for each course unit is determined by adopting the following grading scale:

Range of Marks	Grade	GPV
80% +	A+	4.00
75% -79%	A	4.00
70%- 74%	A-	3.70
65% -69%	B+	3.30
60% -64%	B	3.00
55%-59%	B-	2.70
50% -54%	C+	2.30
45% -49%	C*	2.00* (pass)
40% -44%	C-	1.70 (fail)
35%-39%	D+	1.30 (fail)
30% - 34%	D	1.00 (fail)
0% -29%	E	0.00 (fail)

Notes: i. * - *minimum performance for a pass.*

(b). **Explanation of awarding Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degrees**

Honours and passes shall be awarded on the basis of GPA.

The GPA is obtained by dividing the total number of Grade Points earned by the total number of course credit value. The total Grade Points earned is calculated by multiplying the earned grade value into the course credit value. The total number of credit values considered for computing the GPA shall be 90 credits for Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and 120 credits for Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree as provided in the By-laws.

The number of Grade Points earned in the First year shall be counted for this purpose.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (C_i G_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^N (C_i)}$$

Where:

GPA = Grade Point Average

$\sum_{i=1}^N (C_i G_i)$ = Total of credit values multiplied by the total of value for Grade earned

$\sum_{i=1}^N (C_i)$ = Total of credit value

When a “fail” course unit is successfully completed at a subsequent attempt by a candidate, that course unit shall be identified in the transcript by a special symbol (RC) denoting ‘Repeat Course’. The actual Grade Point earned by the student for the repeat course shall be shown in the transcript. However, when computing the GPA, the Grade Point Value assigned to that course unit shall be 2.00 only.

16. Award of Classes

A candidate who has satisfied the requirements of the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree may be awarded

First Class Honours, Second Class (Upper Division) Honours, Second Class (Lower Division) Honours, or a Pass as the case may be, on the results of all Course Units in the three or four years respectively of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours.

A candidate shall have a GPA of 3.70 or above to obtain a First Class Honours. A candidate shall have a GPA of 3.30 or above to obtain a Second Class (Upper Division). A candidate should have a GPA of 3.00 or above to obtain a Second Class (Lower Division). The minimum GPA for an ordinary pass will be 2.00.

GPA for calculation of classes:

1st Class = $\text{GPA} \geq 3.70$
2nd Upper = $3.30 \leq \text{GPA} < 3.70$
2nd Lower = $3.00 \leq \text{GPA} < 3.30$

Ordinary pass = $2.00 \leq \text{GPA} < 3.00$

17. Eligibility for Award of the BA Degree

- (a) A candidate shall be eligible for the award of the BA degree only if all the required number of credits of either the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) or Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree Examination have been completed by such candidate.

- (b) In the case of a candidate who repeats and completes any Course Unit/s the Grade Point to be taken into consideration in determining the award of the BA Degree shall be 2.00 even if the actual Grade Point scored at the repeat examination is higher.
18. A student shall be deemed to have sat the first scheduled examination irrespective of the fact whether it has been actually sat or not unless the Senate is satisfied that he/she has been prevented from sitting the examination due to illness or any other cause as may be determined by the Senate as a valid and reasonable cause.
19. A candidate who fails to complete any of the Course Units in the first attempt shall be eligible to repeat this/these Course Unit/s within a maximum of two other subsequent occasions.
20. (a) No candidate shall be considered to have passed the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) unless he/she has passed or has been exempted from the relevant First Year Course Units and the relevant Second and Third Year Course Units of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) and has also reached the required standard of proficiency in English and Information Technology as prescribed by these By-Laws and/or any other Regulations and Rules made by the University and obtained the required GPA.
- (b) No candidate shall be considered to have passed the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Honours unless he/she has passed or has been exempted from the relevant First Year Course Units and the relevant Second, Third and Fourth Year Course Units of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Honours and has also reached the required standard of proficiency in English and

Information Technology as prescribed by these By-Laws and/or any other Regulations and Rules made by the University and obtained the required GPA.

21. Students shall be selected to follow a course of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree on the results of the First Year Course Units. Those so selected shall proceed to the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree. All other students who completed the minimum number of required First Year Course Units shall proceed to follow courses of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts Degree (<Study Stream>) in accordance with these By-Laws.
22. The Faculty offers repeat examinations only for a final year student who has failed or not completed a Course unit/s if the unit/s is not offered in the immediately following semester. Repeat examinations will be conducted within one month from the date of releasing results of the second semester.

PART II - FIRST YEAR OF STUDY IN ARTS

23. A candidate shall be deemed to have completed the First Year if he/she obtains 30 credits and a Grade not lower than “C” or “Pass” in each of the Course Units offered.
24. If a candidate obtains a Grade of lower than “C” or “Fail” in a particular Course Unit he/she must repeat that Course Unit unless he/she obtains permission of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts to substitute another Course Unit in its place. Two further attempts are granted to candidates to pass the relevant Course Unit/s.
25. Candidates are permitted to offer more than 10 Course Units in the two semesters of the first year. However, the minimum requirements outlined in paragraph 23 must be followed in every case.

26. First Year answer scripts shall be subject to second examination.

**PART III - DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (<SUBJECT
STREAM>)
YEAR 2 AND YEAR 3**

27. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) in year 2 and 3 shall be consisted of an appropriate number of course units to obtain a minimum of 60 credits. Course Units are evaluated on the basis of online/offline/ blended learning continuous assessment/s as well as end of semester examinations in subjects selected by the student.

28. A candidate shall be deemed to have qualified for the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) Degree if he/she passes in each of the Course Units prescribed each year, obtaining a Grade Point not lower than 2.00 in any of them.

29. A candidate who has obtained a Grade Point below 2.00 in any Course Unit must repeat such Course Unit and obtain a Grade Point of 2.00 or above in order to pass this Course Unit. Alternatively, such a candidate may seek the approval of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts to take another course unit in the same or any related discipline in order to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) Degree. In either case, the candidate has the original attempt and two subsequent attempts in which to pass a Course Unit.

**PART IV - DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS
YEAR 2, YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4**

30. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts Honours in year 2, 3 and 4 shall consist of an appropriate number of course units to obtain a minimum of 90 credits.

Course Units are evaluated on the basis of online/offline/ blended learning continuous assessment/s as well as end of semester examinations in subjects selected by the student.

31. Each Year of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree shall consist of duly prescribed Course Units relevant to the main subject and to the subsidiary or optional courses prescribed by these By-Laws, Regulations and Rules made by the University.
32. A candidate shall be deemed to have qualified for the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree if he/she, passes in each of the Course Units prescribed each year, obtaining a Grade Point not lower than 2.00 in any of them.
33. A candidate who has obtained a Grade Point of below 2.00 in any Course Unit other than the Course Units of the main subject must repeat and obtain a Grade Point of 2.00 or above in order to pass this Course Unit. Alternatively, such candidate may seek the approval of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts to take another course unit in the same or any related discipline in order to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree. In either case, the candidate has the original attempt and two subsequent attempts in which to pass a Course Unit.
34. A candidate who has obtained a Grade Point of below 2.00 in any Course Unit of the main subject must repeat and obtain a Grade Point of 2.00 or above in order to pass this Course Unit and to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree. In either case, the candidate has the original attempt and two subsequent attempts in which to pass a Course Unit.
35. A candidate reading for a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree may request in writing for the award of the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) Degree, upon satisfying the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>) Degree. This request shall be made to the Dean of the

Faculty through the relevant Head of Department after completing or during the 2nd Year or 3rd Year of the Degree.

PART V - INTERPRETATION

36. In these By-Laws unless the context otherwise requires:

"Council" means the Council of the University of Colombo constituted by the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978;

"Faculty Board" means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Colombo as constituted by the Universities Act No: 16 of 1978; and

"Senate" means the Senate of the University of Colombo constituted by the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978.

37. Any question regarding interpretation of these By-laws shall be referred to the Council whose decision thereon shall be final.

APPENDIX 1

Bachelor of Arts Honours Degrees

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Buddhist Studies
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Demography
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Economics
Bachelor of Arts Honours in English
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Geography
Bachelor of Arts Honours in History
Bachelor of Arts Honours in International Relations
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Political Science & Public Policy
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Sinhala
Bachelor of Arts Honours in Sociology

Bachelor of Arts (<Subject Stream>)

Bachelor of Arts (Buddhist Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Pali Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Applied Demography)
Bachelor of Arts (Banking and Finance)
Bachelor of Arts (Business and Managerial Economics)
Bachelor of Arts (English Studies: Theory and Practice)
Bachelor of Arts (Studies in English as a Second Language)
Bachelor of Arts (Geography and Environmental Management)
Bachelor of Arts (Culture and Heritage)
Bachelor of Arts (Conflict Resolution and Peace)
Bachelor of Arts (Democracy and Governance)
Bachelor of Arts (Sinhala Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Applied Sociological Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Urban and Community Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Sports Studies)

Bachelor of Arts (Applied Islamic Studies)
Bachelor of Arts (Communication and Creative Arts)
Bachelor of Arts (ICT for Development)

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