

37/2019



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Department of Buddhist Studies

Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (MABS)

By-Laws

Approved by the Council

Meeting No. 559

Date 14/11/2019

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Department of Buddhist Studies

Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (MABS)

By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and its subsequent amendments.

Whereas the University of Colombo has been conducting the program leading to the Master of Art in Buddhist Studies (MABS) since 2012 under its By-Laws made in that year;

Whereas the said By-Laws have been subsequently amended by the University and the said program has 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, etc., 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 in the published Qualifications Framework;

Whereas it has become necessary to revise and revamp the programme leading to the Master of Art in Buddhist Studies (MABS) to bring it on par with requirements laid down in the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) as updated and published by the University Grants Commission in 2015;

Whereas it has 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 program;

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

BY-LAWS

- (1) These By-Laws may be cited as the Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies By-Laws No. ---
37 of 2019
- (2) These By-Laws amendments shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from 01st July 2018.

Part I - GENERAL

Approved by the Council
Meeting No. 539th
Date 14/11/2019

2. Subject to these By-Laws, a person may be awarded the Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies Degree (by research), [hereafter referred to as the Degree] if he/she has:
- (a) been duly registered for the Degree Programme (hereafter referred to as the programme) for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
 - (b) pursued the programme of study in the University to the satisfaction of the Vice-Chancellor as prescribed by these By-Laws, and other rules and regulations of the University;
 - (c) satisfied the examiners on all forms of assessments including written examination, term papers, seminars and the Dissertation submitted embodying research on a subject approved by the Senate;
 - (d) paid the registration, library, tuition, supervision, examination and other fees and other dues as may be payable by the candidate to the University;
 - (e) ensured that the registration continues to be in force; and
 - (f) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University.

3. Application Procedure

- 3.1 Applications for registration for the Degree programme shall be invited by notice in the newspapers and/or on the University notice board and/or on-line through the website/internet.
 - 3.2 A person who wishes to follow the Programme shall make an application through the conventional and/or on-line mode to the Registrar when the said programme is advertised.
 - 3.3 The application shall be on the prescribed form, obtainable from SAR/ Academic and Publications Branch, providing the information as the candidate shall be required to submit, including the candidate's qualifications for undertaking the programme of study.
 - 3.4 Where a late application is to be accepted an additional fee of 50% of the prescribed fee shall be charged if the application is received within fourteen days of the due date for the receipts of applications. No application shall be entertained after a lapse of fourteen days from the due date except in special circumstances.
 - 3.5 The medium of instruction in the application shall be English, Sinhala.
4. There shall be a Co-ordinator for the programme and he/she shall be appointed by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts from among the academic staff of the Department of Buddhist Studies in consultation with the Head of the Department of Buddhist Studies.
5. The relevant Registrar in charge of the subject shall refer the applications received to the Co-ordinator of the programme. The Co-ordinator, having examined the applications for necessary minimum qualifications, shall call the eligible candidates for an interview to be conducted by a panel including Dean/Head and the Program Coordinator on which selections may be made. The list of candidates so selected shall be recommended to the Senate through the Department and the Faculty Board of Faculty of Arts (hereinafter the Faculty Board).

6. Admission Criteria

No candidate shall be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the MABS Degree,

unless he/she has the following requirements as per the SLQF 2015.

- (i) Graduates with at least Second Class upper division in Buddhist Studies, Pali or related subject from a recognized University or an equivalent qualification;
or
 - (ii) Any other Bachelor's degree in a related area from a recognized University.
 - (iii) Any other academic qualifications equivalent to a Bachelor's degree determined by the Department of Buddhist Studies and approved by the Faculty Board and the Senate.
 - (iv) Graduates with postgraduate qualifications in Buddhist Studies under SLQF 9.
7. If the number of persons who have applied and/or who are registered for the study programme in any given academic year is not sufficient, in the opinion of the Faculty Board, to make the conducting of the study programme financially viable, the Faculty Board reserves the right not to conduct the programme, subject to the University refunding any fees except the application fees, that may have been received from applicants.
8. On acceptance of the candidature by the Faculty Board and the Senate, a person shall forthwith register as a postgraduate candidate for MABS Degree of the University upon payment of the prescribed registration, tuition, examination, library and other fees and /or deposits.
- 8.1 A student shall be required to complete the requirements for the Degree Programme before the expiry of six academic years from the date of first registration. The registration for the programme shall be deemed to have lapsed at the expiry of its period of validity. A candidate whose registration has so lapsed may renew his/her registration for a further period of another academic year, provided the Faculty Board consider him/her eligible for such registration. However, no registration shall be renewed after the expiry of maximum period of registration as mentioned above. Any such candidate may seek registration for the Degree program as a fresh candidate if he/she failed to obtain the Degree after the expiry of the maximum period of registration, in competition with new applicants under the rules and regulations in force at the time of seeking such fresh registration.
- 8.2 Notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary, the University shall have the right to cancel at any time the registration of a candidate for the program after due process and for cause assigned.
- 8.3 A person who is registered as a candidate for the programme shall devote his/her time to his/her studies at the University.
- 8.4 No such candidate shall abstain from classes or leave the Island or withdraw from the examination or a class room test without prior approval of the Faculty.

PART II – STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

9.

9.1 The programme shall consist of two academic years including two parts:

Part I - course work and one seminar paper.

Part II –Dissertation and one seminar paper.
as prescribed in part XI of this by-law.

9.2 The programme of MABS Degree, unless otherwise decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board for special reasons, shall be two academic years with seven (07) courses of 28 total credits, two seminar papers designed for four credits (04 credits), and a dissertation of 30000-40000 words which carries 30 credits, offered in four semesters as prescribed in the Schedule. Total credits will be 62. Candidates who successfully earned sixty two (62) credits at the end of two year programme will receive Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies Degree (by research).

9.3 The titles of courses, course codes, credit point and other details are set out in the Schedule and the Senate shall have power, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board to amend, add to, delete from or vary the courses, their titles, syllabi, course codes, credit values, the scheme of evaluation and other details of the programme. Such amendments shall come into effect after due notice.

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10.1 The candidate who successfully completed thirty (30) credits in the first year and decided to exit from the programme shall be offered Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies Degree (by course works).

10.2 Candidates who are qualified under 6 (v) of the selecting criteria, shall be exempted from first year course works and seminar (30 credits).

11 The medium of instruction and examination shall be Sinhala and English.

12. The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board shall appoint a Board of Examiners to conduct and evaluate the performance of candidates.

Part III – SCHEME OF EVALUATION

13.

13.1. Each course shall carry a maximum of 100 marks. The evaluation of a candidate's performance at each of the course shall take the forms of continuous assessments and end-of- semester written examinations in the first year of the programme.

13.2 In each of the taught courses, 40 percent of the maximum mark shall be based on continuous assessments. The balance 60 percent of marks shall be used for assessing the performance of the candidates at the end of semester closed book written examination in an examination hall setting.

14. **Part I:** in the first year, at the end of each semester, End of semester Examinations are held. **Part II:** in the first semester of the second year the candidates are requested to submit research proposal/s and at the end of the fourth semester the Dissertations should be submitted.

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- 15.
- 15.1 A person shall not be permitted to take the end Semester Examination unless he/she has:
- been registered as a Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies candidate from the commencement of the academic year for which the examination is held;
 - satisfied the attendance requirement, minimum 80 % at lectures held during the first year;
 - the Course Coordinator and or the relevant Head has certified that the candidate who completed all relevant requirements continues evaluation;
 - his/her application for end semester examination has been endorsed by the coordinator and or the relevant Head.
 - has ensured that he/she has paid the necessary examination fees and made other payments to the University duly in respect of the entire Examination which he/she has been required to take;
 - registered with the Examinations Branch of the University for the Examination he/she intends to take; and
 - duly applied for the examination in accordance with the prescribed manner.
- 15.2 A candidate shall be issued the relevant admission card by the University to enter the Examination Hall where the End-of-Semester Examination is held once he/she satisfies the requirements mentioned in the Sub-Clause (1) above.
16. All rules relating to the Examinations and assessments as contained in the Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishments Regulation No.1 of 1986 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the Degree Programme as well.

Part IV – END SEMESTER EXAMINATION

17. The programme is decided into four (04) semesters. Semester I and II are in part one (I) and semester III and IV are in part two (II). The duration of the semester is six months. During the semester I and II, classroom teaching, seminars and other relevant evaluation activities and the end of semester examination will be held. During the semester III and IV research proposal and Dissertation are shall be completed and submitted for evaluation.
18. The list of subjects, the syllabi and the number of question papers in each subject for Part I of the end of semester Examination for the Degree programme shall be prescribed by regulations made by the Senate. The Senate shall have the power on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, to amend the list of subjects, the syllabi and number of question papers in each subject.
19. The end of semester Examination (Part I) for the Degree programme shall be conducted at the end of the relevant semester by a Board of Examiners appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board for the conduct of that part of the Examination.
20. A student shall not be eligible and/or permitted to take the end of semester Examination unless he/she has fulfilled the requirement of a minimum 80% attendance at lectures, discussion & tutorial classes, seminars, other forms of instructions etc. of each course module and has been certified by the Coordinator to that effect.

PART V – SEMINARS

21. Every candidate for the Degree programme shall submit and present a Seminar paper.
- (i) Each seminar shall carry a maximum of 100 marks allocated through written and oral presentations.
 - (ii) Seminar topic shall be approved by the Faculty Board.
 - (iii) Written and oral presentation of the seminar shall be evaluated by two panel members appointed by the Faculty Board.

PART VI – SUBMISSION OF THE DISSERTATION

22. Every candidate for the Degree programme shall submit a Dissertation to complete the programme.
23. The dissertation shall be a presentation of independent research, based on an analytical or critical review on a topic relating to Buddhist Studies approved by the Senate.
- 24.
- 24.1 Students shall adhere strictly to the Policy and Rules/Regulations of the University on plagiarism in undertaking the dissertation.
- 24.2 When the act of plagiarism by any candidate is proven, he/she shall be subjected to punishment on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee. The punishment may include the impugned dissertation being rejected and the Student registration with the University being cancelled with or without a debarment of future registrations. There will be penalties for such dishonest actions on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee.
25. The area and topic of study of the dissertation shall be notified during the first semester of the second year of study to the Higher Degrees Committee. This shall not be changed except with the approval of the Higher Degrees Committee.
- 25.1 The title and scope of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval of the Higher Degrees committee of the Faculty of Arts within three months of the date of commencement of the Course of study in the second year.
- 25.2 Any amendment to the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval of the Higher Degrees committee of the Faculty of Arts through the Coordinator at least three months before the submission of the dissertation.
26. A student shall submit two copies of the dissertation to the Exam branch on or before the end of the last semester of the program.
27. Each dissertation shall be examined by two or more examiners.
28. The pass mark of the dissertation shall be 60% of the allocated marks for the dissertation.
29. A candidate shall be deemed to have fulfilled the requirements for the Degree programme if he/she passes the end of semester Examinations, two seminars and the dissertation.

30. When a dissertation is accepted for the award of the Degree Programme, two copies of it shall be submitted to the University to be retained by the University.

PART VII – CRITERIA FOR PASS AND FAILURE

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- 31.1 Each of the seven (07) taught courses, two (02) seminar papers and the Independent Study shall carry a maximum Grade Point Value (GPV) of 4.00.
- 31.2 A candidate's performance in each of the course modules shall be graded according to the following scheme and the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) is carried out considering the Grade Point Value (GPV) for each such Courses and Credits allocated accordingly.

Scheme of Evaluation

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade Point Value	Pass/ Not completed
90-100	A ⁺	4.00	} Distinction
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A-	3.70	
70-74	B ⁺	3.30	} Merit
65-69	B	3.00	} Pass
60-64	B ⁻	2.70	
55-59	C ⁺	2.30	
50-54	C	2.00	} Not Completed
45-49	C ⁻	1.70	
40-44	D ⁺	1.30	
30-39	D	1.00	
00-29	E	0.00	

(Source: UGC Circular No. 901)

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n GPV_i C_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

Where GPV_i and C_i are the Grade Point Value earned and credit values allocated respectively for the n^{th} course modules. Any calculated GPA shall be rounded to the second decimal place.

32. A candidate shall be deemed to have been successful at the examination leading to the

- award of the MABS Degree if he/she obtains a Grade Point Value of not less than 2.70 each for all the taught courses totaling twenty eight (28) credits, four (04) credits from two seminars and thirty (30) credits for the Independent Study component.
33. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MABS Degree may be awarded a Distinction Pass at the examination if he/she obtains a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.70 or more during the first period of registration.
 34. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MABS Degree may be awarded a Merit Pass at the examination if he/she obtains GPA score between 3.30 and 3.69 during the first period of registration.
 35.
 - 35.1 A candidate shall be deemed to have an incomplete result in one or more taught courses and Independent Study of the MABS program if she/he obtains a GPV of less than 2.70.
 - 35.2 A candidate who has incomplete result having obtained a GPV of less than 2.70 in any taught course/s during a particular semester shall repeat the written examinations of the respective course/s at the next available occasion. Such candidates shall be given the option of carrying forward the continuous assessment marks earned for that respective course/s conducted during the particular semester.
 - 35.3 A candidate who obtains a GPV of less than 2.70 in the Independent Study shall be considered unsuccessful and incomplete in the Independent Study and shall re-submit the Independent Study within a period of one year.
 - 35.4 A candidate who has an incomplete result may successfully complete the examinations, including the Independent Study where it is applicable, leading to the MABS program if he/she satisfies the requirements prescribed in section 32 above.
 36. A candidate with incomplete results shall be eligible for two further attempts provided he/she has a valid registration. He/she shall take the courses in which he/she has been unsuccessful on the very next occasion when the examination is held provided that he/she is eligible to take the examination.
 37. The University shall announce through notification the names of candidates who have passed the MABS examination and those who have incomplete results in the MABS examination after completing the whole examination. All candidates passing the Examination of the Degree programme shall be informed of the results of the Examination.

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

38.
 - 38.1 The fees for application, tuition, examination, and repeat examination, library

facilities shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the University on the recommendation of the Faculty Board. The fees paid shall under no circumstances be refunded, except under section 7 of these By-laws.

- 38.2 There shall be additional fees charged from repeat candidates as determined by the Faculty Board and the Council depending on the expenses to be incurred by the University to service their repeat attempts in the instruction and examination processes.
- 38.3 The fee payable for a certificate or statement of results or transcripts shall be determined by the Council.
- 38.4 A fee shall be charged for replacement of a lost student identity card or lost library card at rates determined by the Council.

PART IX - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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- 39.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-Laws, the candidates who have already been registered under the provisions of the By-Laws of MABS No. 1 of 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the 2012 By-Laws) shall be entitled to continue their program under and subject to those provisions. To that extent the provisions of the MABS 2012 By-Laws as amended subsequently shall be operative temporarily.
- 39.2 Any candidate who has already been registered under the MABS program under the 2012 By-Laws shall enjoy a transition period of three years within which they shall be governed by those provisions to complete their program according to the requirements of the MABS program.
- 39.3 The candidates who have been registered under the MABS program under the 2012 By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MABS under those provisions (the MABS program) may within a period of one year from these By-Laws come into effect apply to the University that they be considered for transfer of registration for the program under the present By-Laws.

Provided that the Council reserves the right either to decline such request or to permit such request subject to such conditions as it may deem necessary to impose on the recommendations of the Faculty Board and the Senate.

40

- 40.1 The Council, on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty Board may consider granting an exemption from following a course/ courses and taking the examination of the course/ courses subject to such conditions as it may deem fit and

proper. This decision shall be made by the Council on a case-by-case basis and its decision shall be final.

40.2 The Council retains the discretion to deny any request made under sub-Clause 40.1 above if it thinks that granting the facility will be prejudicial to the interests of any stake holders.

41. The Vice Chancellor of the University shall have the authority, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, to take such actions or give such directions not inconsistent with the spirit and principles underlying the provisions of these By-Laws as appears to him/her to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing any difficulties that may arise in the interpretation of the provisions or for which there is no provision in these By-Laws or in the case of students who had followed or have been following the MABS program under the earlier arrangements and/or By-Laws.

Part X - INTERPRETATIONS

41. In these By-Laws unless the context otherwise requires,

“**Council**” means the Council of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978. (as amended subsequently).

“**Senate**” means the Senate of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978 (as amended subsequently).

“**Faculty**” means the Faculty of Arts.

“**Faculty Board**” means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts.

“**Higher Degree Committee**” means the Higher Degree Committee of the Faculty of Arts.

“**Registrar**” means the Registrar, the Acting Registrar, Deputy Registrar or any other officer authorized to sign for and on behalf of the Registrar of the University of Colombo.

“**Application**” means an application for registration or for entry to an examination.

42. Any question regarding the interpretation of these By-Laws shall be referred to the Council and whose decision thereon shall be final.

PART XI - SCHEDULE

43. The MABS (by research) programme shall include the following.

Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies
(MABS) - SLQF Level 10

The program of Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies shall offer the subjects as given below in two academic years.

Titles of the Course Modules	Credits
Year – 1	
First Semester	
MABS 6101 Research Methodology	04
MABS 6102 History of Buddhist Thought	04
MABS 6103 Theravada Tradition (history, beliefs and practices)	04
MABS 6104 Studies in Buddhist Culture, Art and Architecture*	04
MABS 6105 Buddhist Approaches to Law, Justice, Gender and Rights*	04
Second Semester	
MABS 6206 Buddhist Approach to Environment, Economics and Politics	04
MABS 6207 Buddhist Philosophy of Education	04
MABS 6208 Buddhist Meditation, Psychology and Counseling	04
MABS 6209 Seminar Paper – I	02
Total Credits – Year 1	30
Year – 2	
MABS 6301 Seminar Paper II	02
MABS 6302 Dissertation (30,000 - 40,000 words)	30
Total Credits – Year 2	32
Total Credits – MABS	62

* These two course modules are optional.

Approved by the Council
Meeting No. 5597th
Date 14/11/2019