University of Colombo School of Computing

Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)

By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under Section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 as last amended by Universities (Amendment) Act No. 01 of 1995 and read with the University of Colombo School of Computing Ordinance No.01 of 2002.

By-Laws

These By-Laws may be cited of the Degree of Master of Philosophy By-Laws No...1... of 2042.

PART I – GENERAL

Award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy

1 Subject to these By-Laws, a candidate may be awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy, if he has

(a) been registered as a part-time student or a full-time student of the School for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
(b) thereafter completed, to the satisfaction of the Vice-Chancellor, the Programme of Study, as prescribed by these By-Laws and/or other Rules and Regulations of the University;
(c) earned prescribed number of credits and defended a thesis written by the student on a title approved by the School to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners;
(d) paid the library deposit and all the prescribed fees including registration fees, course fees, supervision fees, examination fees and all other dues as may be payable to the School; and
(e) fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws and/or other relevant By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations of the University.

Administration of the Programme

2 The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) shall be in charge of the administration and general direction of the Degree Programme.

Eligibility for admission to the Programme

3 (A) A person may be admitted to follow the programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy under these By-Laws if he has

either

(i) a Master’s Degree in CS/IT/ICT disciplines from a recognized University,
or
(ii) a four year Bachelors Degree in CS/ICT disciplines from a recognized University having obtained a First or Second Class Upper Division,
or
(iii) a Bachelors Degree in CS/ICT disciplines from a recognized University or any other qualification deemed equivalent by the Board of Study of
the School on a case-by-case basis and passes a qualifying test set by the School.

(B) A person may be admitted to follow the programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy under these By-Laws, if he has

(a) Obtained provisional registration by having
   either
   (i) a Masters Degree in a relevant field from a recognized University,
   or
   (ii) a four year Bachelors Degree in a relevant field from a recognized University having obtained a First or Second Class,
   or
   (iii) any other qualification deemed equivalent by the Board of Study of the School on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Earned a number of core CS/IT/ICT credits as prescribed by the Board of Study within the first year of the programme. Upon successful completion of the prescribe credits, the candidate will be admitted to follow the programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy under these by-laws.

Application for admission to the Programme

4 A person who is eligible for admission to the programme may make an application for such admission at any time of the year.

Registration for the Degree Programme

5 (a) A person seeking admission to the programme shall make an application to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Academic & Publications in the prescribed form furnishing his qualifications, research proposal and other information required for undertaking the programme.

(b) The application shall be evaluated by a panel of academic staff of the School and if acceptable, the panel recommends suitable supervisor or supervisors. At least one of the supervisors should be an academic member of the School. The recommendation of the panel of staff shall be forwarded to the Director of the School. The Director shall obtain the recommendation of the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School, and recommend to the Academic Syndicate of the School the applications suitable for acceptance.

6. If such application for Registration is approved by the Academic Syndicate of the School, the Senior Assistant Registrar shall inform the applicant about the fees payable to the School for such application to take effect, and such fees which will include the library fees, the annual registration fee, written examination fees if any, deferment fees if any, the Thesis Examination fees and any other fees approved by the School.

7(a) Such application shall not take effect until the fees stipulated under section (6) are paid to the School, and the effective date of registration of such student

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shall be the date on which such fees have been paid or the date on which the applicant has begun his work in connection with his programme of study as certified by his supervisor, whichever is the later date.

(b) In case where a provisional registration has been confirmed by satisfying the requirements given in 3 (B) (b), the effective date shall be the date of the provisional registration.

(C) Maximum period of validity of a MPhil registration is five years.

8 (a) The registration of the student shall lapse at the expiry of twelve (12) months from the date of registration, and such registration may be extended by a further period of twelve (12) months if the candidate is registered as a full-time candidate or twenty four (24) months if the candidate is registered as a part-time candidate. Additional periods of twelve (12) months at a time if necessary, provided that each such extension is approved by the Academic Syndicate on the recommendation of the Supervisor and the annual registration fees as applicable at the time the extension is sought is paid to the School.

(b) The registration shall be deemed to have lapsed at the end of its period of validity. A student whose registration has so lapsed may renew such registration for a further period by paying the prescribed fees as specified in the Regulations and/or Rules relevant to these By-Laws provided that the student is still eligible to be registered for the programme.

9 It shall be lawful for the School not to grant any extension if the Supervisor is of the opinion that the performance of the student up to the time the extension is sought is unsatisfactory. The Board of Study may not approve the completion of work in a given semester, if the student has not scored the required number of credits as determined by the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School.

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10 The Title of the Thesis provided in the Application may be subsequently changed by the applicant with written consent of the Supervisor, and shall take effect only after the Academic Syndicate of the School approves such change.
PART II – COURSE STRUCTURE

Duration

11 (1) The minimum duration of the Course leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy under these By-Laws shall be

- twenty four (24) months for a Full-time student and
- thirty six (36) months for a Part-time student

The minimum duration covers 4 semesters and a semester shall, under normal conditions, be a continuous period of 6 (six) months in the full time course and 9 months in the part time programme from its beginning. Under exceptional circumstances, the School may declare any semester to have a different duration and, if necessary formulate rules and regulations for its implementation.

Extension of period due to absence of work

(2) Under exceptional circumstances acceptable to the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School, a student may be granted leave of absence from engaging himself in his work connected with the Programme, and if such leave is granted, the period of such leave shall be added to the period specified in paragraph 11 (1). The date on which the current Registration will expire will be adjusted accordingly by the School provided that a deferment fees for such an adjustment as provided for under Rules and Regulations to these By-Laws is paid to the School.

Transfer of registration status

(3) A student who is registered as a Full-time student may, with the permission of the School, have his registration changed to that of a Part-time student, or vice-versa. The minimum duration of the Course for such a student shall be as determined by the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School and shall remain an integral multiple of a periods of twelve (12) months.

Definition of a Credit:

(4) One credit is equivalent to at least 15hrs of teaching and learning activities (TLAs). A student can earn such credits by successfully completing teaching and learning activities as defined by the supervisor of the student at the beginning of the semester.

(5) The programme of study shall consists of research in the specified field or fields under the guidance of the supervisor/supervisors and comprise the course work consisting of the Theory and Practical components, the group projects, activities related to the thesis, teaching and instructing, conducting seminars/workshops, publishing articles, presenting in seminars and conferences. All such teaching and learning activities in the course should be correlated to the individual research project defined in the approved research proposal by the supervisor.

(6) Appropriate number of credits can be claimed for the publication of research papers in reputed journals and refereed conference proceedings as defined by the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School.
The Course of Study

12 (1) The Supervisor with the assistance of the Additional Supervisor or such Supervisors if any shall, in consultation with the Head of the Department/Centre, will plan the broad outline of the Course of study to be pursued by the student.

(2) The Course of Study shall consist of
   (i) Research directly relevant to the approved Title of the Thesis and
   (ii) Advanced studies as recommended by the Head of the Department/Centre, under the guidance of the Supervisor and the Additional Supervisor or such Supervisors if any.

PART III – EXAMINATIONS

13 The performance of the candidate shall be assessed by a Board of Examiners on the basis of
   (i) Acquiring the required number of credits for each semester as defined by the rules and regulations for the implementation of the programme
   (ii) a written examination if any, on the recommendation of the Supervisor and the Additional Supervisor or such Supervisors if any, and
   (iii) an oral examination on the Thesis submitted by the candidate for the Degree.

14 The Board of Examiners for the written examination if any and that of the Oral Examination shall be appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Academic Syndicate. The thesis examination panel shall consist of Director (Chairman), two Thesis examiners (one external and one internal), relevant Head of Department/Centre, an additional internal examiner (a member of the academic staff of the school to verify corrections to the thesis (if any) and supervisor(s) as observer(s). If a thesis examiner is unable to attend the oral examination, a senior academic member of the School recommended by the Board of Study for Research and Higher Degrees of the School can represent the thesis examiner and evaluate the candidate based on the confidential report submitted by the thesis examiner. The decision of the Board of Examiners on the oral examination shall be final.

The Thesis

15 A tentative version of the Thesis written under the direction of the Supervisor shall be submitted on his recommendation to the Head of the Department/Centre by the candidate. The format of the tentative version of the Thesis shall take the from as specified by the Board of Study of Research and Higher Degrees of the School.
16 If the Supervisor approves the tentative version of the Thesis, the student shall submit three copies of the Final Thesis to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Examinations of the School.

17 The Final Thesis shall be examined by the Supervisor, the Additional Supervisor or such Supervisors if any and the External Examiner and other such Examiners if any, before the candidate is summoned for the Oral Examination.

The oral examination

18 The Senior Assistant Registrar/Examinations of the School shall fix the date of the Oral Examination in consultation with the relevant Head of the Department/Centre.

19 The Board of Examiners for the Oral Examination may, after the oral examination, determine that the candidate

(i) merits the award of the Degree without requiring him to make any alterations to the Thesis;

or

(ii) merits the award of the Degree after making certain minor alterations and/or after further research each specified by the Board of Examiners;

or

(iii) does not merit the award of the Degree on the contents of his Thesis and/or his performance at the oral examination and may recommend further work.

20 If the Board of Examiners determines that the candidate merits the award of the Degree after making certain specified corrections, the corrections should be incorporated into the Thesis within the prescribed period. The corrections, revisions should be certified by the internal examiner.

21 If the Board of Examiners determines that further Research work has to be done by the candidate before he is to be considered for the award of the Degree, he shall proceed to do such further research, and shall resubmit his new Thesis within a period of 12 months from the date of the oral examination before he is considered to face another oral examination.

22 The candidate shall pay to the School, the fees required for the re-examination of the Thesis and the second Oral Examination, and any fees which may be required to keep his Registration without lapsing.

23 The Board of Examiners at the second oral examination shall determine whether

(i) the Thesis as presented merits the award of the Degree

or

(ii) he does not merit the award of the Degree.

24. A successful Master of Philosophy student should demonstrate the following Qualification Descriptors (Sri Lankan Credit and Qualification Framework, University Grants Commission)
(a) A thorough and systematic understanding of knowledge, together with a critical awareness of current issues and new insights in his/her subject, informed by scholarly development in his/her academic subject/field or area of professional practice.

(b) A comprehensive understanding of and ability to apply, techniques relevant to his/her own research.

(c) Originality in the application of knowledge and a practical understanding of how research techniques are used to create and interpret knowledge in the subject.

(d) A range of conceptual understanding that enables them to:

i) Evaluate and analyse current research and advanced scholarship in the subject.

ii) Constructively criticize and improve methodologies in the subject, and where appropriate, to propose new hypothesis.

The Award of the Degree

25. A candidate will be Awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy if he/she is successful in the evaluations given in section (13). The date of award of the degree will be the date on which all examination matters are completed.

26. A candidate eligible for the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy shall not be awarded such Degree unless he supplicates for the award of such Degree when notified by the University.

Interpretation

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


“Council” means the Council of the University of Colombo.

“Senate” means the Senate of the University of Colombo.

“University” means University of Colombo

“Registrar” means the Registrar, Acting Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrar, Assistant Registrar or any other Officer authorized to sign for and on behalf of the Registrar of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

“Director” means the Director, Deputy Director or any other Officer authorized to sign for and on behalf of the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing.
“School” means the University of Colombo School of Computing established by Order made under Section 24A read with Section 18 of the Act.

“Programme” means the Programme of study leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy.

“Degree” means the Degree of Master of Philosophy.

“Degree Programme” means the Programme of study leading to the award of the Degree.

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

29. The Vice-Chancellor shall have authority, in consultation with the Director to take such action or give such direction not inconsistent with the 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 these 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 Degree Programme under the existing arrangements approved by the senate and the Council.