DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

University of Colombo School of Computer Science

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

By-Laws

These By-Laws may be cited as the Doctor of Philosophy By-Laws No. 1 of 2002.

Part I- General

Award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

1. Subject to these By-Laws, a student may be awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy if he has-

(a) been a registered student of the University of Colombo School of Computing (hereinafter referred to as 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 Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or School;

(c) satisfied the Examiners in the different forms of Examinations and Assessments including written examinations, practical examinations, oral examinations, assignments, seminars, reports, thesis, oral defense of thesis etc., as may be prescribed by these By-Laws and/or any other By-Laws, and/or Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or School;

(d) paid all the prescribed fees including registration fee, course fee, supervision fee, examination fee, library fee 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 Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or School.

Approved by the Council

Meeting No. 423

Date 12.03.2008

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Administration of the Programme

2. The School shall be in charge of the administration and general direction of the Degree Programme.

Eligibility for Admission to the Programme

3. No person shall be eligible to be admitted to the Programme leading to the award of the Degree of Philosophy in Computer Science unless he satisfies the minimum requirements specified in the following paragraph:

- He possesses -
  (i) A M.Phil Degree in Computer Science or Information Technology from a recognized University; or
  (ii) Any other academic or professional qualification, which is deemed equivalent to a M.Phil Degree in Computer Science or Information Technology by the Senate of the University of Colombo on the recommendation of the School. Each application under this category shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application for Admission to the Programme.

4. (a) A person seeking admission to the programme shall make an application to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Academic 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 a 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 recommendations 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.

Registration for the Degree Programme.

5. A person whose application for admission to the Programme is accepted by the School shall take steps to register for the Degree Programme not later than the prescribed date and shall pay to the School, the library deposit and/or other deposits and the prescribed fees including the registration fee, course fee, supervision fee, examination fees and other fees as specified by the Council on the recommendation of the School.

6. (a) On completion of the registration procedure, an applicant shall be registered as a student of the Degree Programme.
(b) Such registration shall be valid for a period of three years in the case of full time students and five years for part time students from the date of registration.

The effective date of registration shall be the date on which the duly completed application was received at the Office of the Director of the School.

The student shall ensure that his registration remains in force throughout the duration of the programme.

7. 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 he is still eligible to be registered for the programme.

8. A registration may be cancelled by the Academic Syndicate of the School for the following reasons

i) Non-payment of the prescribed fees within the first three months of each year.

ii) Non-adherence to Rules and Regulations of the University.

iii) The progress of the research work is below the acceptable level.

9. A candidate may withdraw or postpone his registration by writing to Director giving reasons. In the case of postponement the candidate should indicate the period of duration of the postponement. Each request for postponement shall be considered on its own merit by the Academic Syndicate of the School.

10. The School shall not repay or refund to any person any fees paid to it on any ground whatsoever.

Transfer from the M.Phil Programme

11. A student who has been registered for a M.Phil programme in the School and who has made good progress may at his request and upon the recommendation of the Academic Syndicate of the School, be permitted to transfer the registration to a Ph.D. degree programme. Such a transfer is permitted only after completion of at least one year of the M.Phil programme.

In the event of such a transfer the effective date of registration shall be the date of registration for the M.Phil programme.

PART II - PROGRAMME DURATION AND STRUCTURE

12. subject to these By-Laws, the minimum period of study for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be three years for full time students and five years for part time
students and the maximum shall be seven years for full time students and nine years for part time students.

Structure of the Programme

13. (a) The programme of study shall consist of research in the specified field or fields under the guidance of the supervisor/supervisors and advanced studies under the guidance of the the supervisor/supervisors in one or more subjects as specified by the supervisor/s.

(b) The candidate shall at the end of the programme, submit a thesis based on the research carried out. The thesis shall represent a substantial and significant contribution to knowledge in the particular area of study and shall demonstrate the candidate’s knowledge of methods of research, competence to present research systematically and the ability to exercise critical and independent judgment.

14. (a) The candidate shall undertake the study within the School, or with the approval of the School in an external institution under the guidance of a supervisor/supervisors appointed by the Academic Syndicate of the School. When the major part of the research is carried out in an external institution, at least one the supervisors should be from that institution.

(b) The Candidates may also be required to make research presentations at such number of seminars as decided by the School on the recommendation of the supervisor/s.

(c) The candidate must publish research papers relevant to his research in refereed journals or refereed conference proceedings.

The candidates can earn credits for their activities as given in the following table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Restriction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar (at least one hour)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication in a Refereed Journal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication in a Refereed Conference Proceedings (full paper)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART III - EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

15. The candidates must earn at least 15 credits as partial fulfillment of criteria for the award of the degree before the submission of the thesis.
16. On successful completion of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the performance of a candidate shall be assessed on the basis of the thesis and seminar based on the research project and viva-voce examination.

(a) Thesis Examination
The thesis shall be examined by two or more examiners at least one of whom shall be a foreign external examiner the other examiner should be outside the school. The examiners may either accept the thesis, reject the thesis or recommend amendments and/or further work.

(b) Initial Submission of the Thesis
Three copies of the thesis in temporary binding should be submitted in the first instance by the candidate through the supervisor/supervisors and the Head of the Department of study of the School to the examination branch of the School. The supervisor/supervisors should certify that the thesis report is original work of the candidate. The examination branch of the School shall dispatch copies of the thesis to the examiners recommended by the Academic Syndicate of the School. On receipt of the evaluation reports of the examiners, the examination branch on consultation with the Academic Syndicate, shall organize the viva-voce examination.

(c) Viva-voce Examination
If the thesis has been evaluated favorably, by the thesis examiners an viva-voce examination will be conducted. The panel shall consists of Director (Chairman), Head of the relevant Department of Study, the thesis examiners (where an examiner is not available in the country, the Academic Syndicate of the School shall nominate a suitable person), an internal examiner (a member of the academic staff of the School to verify the minor corrections (if any) to the thesis) and the supervisor/supervisors as observer/observers. The panel will submit a report on the suitability of the candidate for the award of the degree.

A candidate whose thesis is recommended for the award of the degree is required to make all corrections, revisions etc. as required by the panel and resubmit the thesis in the revised form within a period of time specified by the panel of examiners. The corrections, revisions, should be certified by the internal examiner.

(d) Final Submission of the Thesis
Three copies of the thesis in the permanently bound form, together with one electronic copy on a compact disc or in an appropriate electronic storage medium, with revisions if any, prepared according to guidelines should be submitted through the Head of the relevant Department of study of the School to the examination branch of the School, within the specified period of time as recommended by the panel of examiners at the viva-voce examination. When the candidates submit the final copies of the thesis, the internal examiner should certify that the corrections and revisions, if any, have been properly effected by the candidates.

17. If the examiners of the thesis recommend amendments and/or further work the candidate may, with the approval of the Academic Syndicate of the School, shall
complete the amendments and/or further work recommended and re-submit the thesis for evaluation within the prescribed period of time.

If the Board of Examiners determines that further Research work has to be done by the student 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.

18. After successful evaluation (see section 19) of the thesis, the candidate will be awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

19. A successful Ph.D. student is expected to demonstrate the following Qualification Descriptors (Sri Lankan Credit and Qualification Framework, University Grants Commission)

(a) The creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, or a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the discipline and merit publication.

(b) A systematic acquisition and understanding of substantial body of knowledge at a forefront of an academic discipline or areas of professional practice.

(c) The ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project so as to generate new knowledge, applications or understanding and to adjust the design of the project in response to developments, positive and negative.

(d) A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

PART IV-INTERPRETATION

19. In these By-Laws as well as in its Part IV, 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 Doctor of Philosophy.

“Degree” means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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

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

21. The Vice-Chancellor shall have authority, in consultation with the Director to take such action or give such direction not consistent 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.