UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

MASTER OF CYBERSECURITY

BY-LAWS

By-Laws made by the University of Colombo under section 135 of the Universities Act, No.16 of 1978, read with section 13 of the University of Colombo School of Computing Ordinance, No. 01 of 2002.

1. (1) These By-Laws may be cited as the Master of Cybersecurity By-Laws No. ..... of 2026 and shall come into operation on ..... August 2026.

PART I
GENERAL

Award of Degree

2. Subject to these By-Laws, a student may be awarded the Master of Cybersecurity (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme") if such student –

(a) has been a registered student at the University of Colombo School of Computing (hereinafter referred to as the "School") for the period specified in these By-Laws;

(b) has thereafter, completed the Programme to the satisfaction of the Senate, as specified by these By-Laws, and/or other relevant Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or the School;

(c) has satisfied the Board of Examiners in different forms of Examinations and Assessments including written examinations, practical examinations, oral examinations, assignments, seminars, group projects, individual projects, individual studies, reports and oral defences of independent studies, portfolios, and other similar ways of evaluation, as may be specified by these By-Laws and/or any other relevant By-Laws, and/or Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or the School;

(d) has paid all relevant fees including registration fee, course fee, supervision fee, examination fee, library fee, and all other payable dues to the School as may be determined by the Board of Management;

(e) has completed the relevant requirements specified by the Regulations for the award of the Master's Degree within a period of four (4) academic years, including the first academic year of registration, subject to the provisions of these By-Laws; and,

(f) has fulfilled all other requirements specified by these By-Laws and/or other relevant Regulations and/or Rules of the University and/or the School.

Administration of the Programme

3. The School shall be in charge of the administration and general direction of the Programme leading to the Master's Degree.

Eligibility for Admission to the Programme

4. No person shall be eligible to be admitted to the Programme unless such person satisfies the following minimum requirements: -

(a) A Bachelor's Degree from a University or Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission and/or the University of Colombo; or

(b) Any other academic or professional qualification equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree as may be determined by the Senate of the University of Colombo on the recommendation of the School:

Provided that, each such application under this category shall be considered on a case-by-case basis; and

(c) Attaining the minimum performance score in a selection test such as the General Computing Aptitude Test (GCAT); and

(d) Fulfilling additional prerequisites such as an interview, availability of vacancies, and payment of the relevant fees.

Application for Admission to the Programme

5. (1) Applications for admission of students to the Programme shall be called by an open advertisement published, online or otherwise, by the Registrar under the authority of the School.

(2) Prospective applicants shall pay to the School, the relevant fee as may be determined by the School.

Registration for the Programme

6. (1) A person whose application for admission to the Programme is accepted by the School, shall take steps to register for the Programme not later than the date as may be determined by the relevant Board of Study and shall pay the relevant fees as may be determined by the School.

(2) When a student registers for the Programme, the registration of such student shall be valid for the first two consecutive academic years starting from the date of commencement of the Programme (the first day of the First Semester).

(3) The student shall initially be registered for the First and Second Semesters of the Programme and be allowed to proceed to the Third and Fourth Semesters upon successful completion of the First and Second Semesters and meeting the eligibility criteria as specified in these By-Laws and/or any other relevant Regulations and/or rules.

(4) It shall be the responsibility of the student to ensure that the registration of such student remains valid until the degree requirements are fulfilled.

(5) The registration shall be deemed to have lapsed at the end of its period of validity. A student whose registration has so lapsed, may make an application to the School for the renewal of such registration for a further period by paying the relevant renewal fees:

Provided that, such student shall be eligible to be registered for the Programme in terms of Paragraph (6) of this By-Law.

(6) No registration shall remain in force beyond a maximum period of four (4) academic years including the first period of registration. However, this maximum period of four (4) academic years may, under exceptional circumstances, be extended by an academic year subject to the approval of the Senate on the recommendation of the Academic Syndicate and the Board of Management. Each

such application for renewal beyond the maximum period of four (4) academic years under any exceptional circumstance shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(7) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 6. (6) of this By-Law, a student whose four (4) academic year period has lapsed may make a written request to the School for a grace chance to complete the degree provided that, such student has shown a substantial progress in the studies in the previous Semesters. The School shall have the power to consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and recommend to the Senate for its approval.

(8) The refund of any fee paid to the school shall be determined in terms of the refund policy of the University.

PART II
ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Academic Programme

7. (1) The Programme leading to the award of the Master's Degree shall span for two (2) academic years consisting of four (4) Semesters of learning activities and assessments.

(2) The duration of each Semester shall be a continuous period of fifteen (15) weeks from the date of commencement of such Semester. However, the Senate shall have the authority, on the recommendation of the School, to shorten or extend the duration of a Semester, under exceptional circumstances.

(3) The Programme shall include Course Work consisting of Theory and Practical components, Independent Studies and a Portfolio/Report on it, its Oral Examination/Defence and all other examinations specified by these By-Laws and/or any other relevant Regulations and/or Rules.

(4) The Course Work shall consist of lectures, tutorials, practical classes and other assignments, as shall be determined by the Senate on the recommendation of the School. The list of Courses, Compulsory (Core) and/or Optional (Elective), and the number, structure and rubric of question papers in each Course shall be those set out under Regulations made by the Senate on the recommendation of the School, from time to time.

(5) Each Course shall carry a time-based Credit Value as prescribed by Regulations relating to Master of Cybersecurity.

(6) The School shall have the authority to offer Courses of different types, including Courses which are Compulsory as Core Courses and/or Courses which are Optional as Elective Courses.

(7) The Senate shall, on the recommendation of the School, have the power to change, amend, add to or delete from the Courses, their status as Compulsory or Optional, their syllabi and the number, structure and rubric of question papers in such Courses.

(8) Every student who is admitted to the Degree Programme shall register in each academic Semester for such number of Courses as contributing to not less than such number of Credits as prescribed by the Regulations relating to Master of Cybersecurity.

Medium of Instruction

8. The medium of instruction, assessment, examinations and correspondence shall be English.

Registration for Academic Courses

9. (1) In each Semester, the students shall register for the Core and Elective Courses, and the total Credits of the Courses shall be not less than the number of Credits required for that Semester as prescribed by Regulations relating to Master of Cybersecurity. The procedure for registering in such Core and Elective Courses, shall be determined by the Board of Study.

(2) The School shall notify internally, the list of Elective Courses available for registration. After notification, if for whatever reason, an Elective Course cannot be conducted and if a student has applied for registration for any such Course/s, such student shall be permitted by the School to withdraw such application and apply for registration for any other Course/s that are being conducted during such Semester.

(3) A student shall not be permitted to voluntarily withdraw an application for registration for any such Elective Course/s in respect of any Semester unless such withdrawal is permitted by the Board of Study, and no student shall be permitted to apply for registration for any Elective Course/s after the date as may be specified by the relevant Board of Study.

(4) No student who, without valid reasons acceptable to the Board of Study, fails to register for the required number of Courses, shall be permitted to appear for any assessment or examination of any paper in that Semester.

PART III
ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS

Assessment and Examinations

10. (1) The Examinations leading to the award of the Master of Cybersecurity shall consist of all four (4) Semester Examinations and the evaluation of Independent Studies.

(2) Each Semester examination shall consist of one or more than one written paper and such number of components of continuous assessments, assignments, reports, presentations, oral examinations or a combination of such methods of evaluation as prescribed by the Regulations relating to Master of Cybersecurity.

(3) Each student who is registered for the Programme shall make an application in the form specified and issued by the School for entry to the relevant Examination.

(4) Any application for an Examination made by any student shall not be entertained by the School unless the Director of the School has certified that such student took part in the different forms of instruction provided for each Course in the Semester.

(5) A student in a particular Semester of the Programme shall take the Examination for that Semester on the first occasion in which the Examination is held for the particular Course. If the student does not take the Examination in the first available opportunity, such student shall be deemed to have exhausted an attempt at the Examination of the Course, unless the Senate on the recommendation of the School decides otherwise due to any valid reason.

(6) A student in a particular Semester of the Programme shall undertake work related to continuous assessment for that Semester on the first occasion when it is set for the Semester. Where a student does not undertake the work specified for continuous assessment and/or fails to complete such work on the first occasion such student shall be deemed to have exhausted an attempt at undertaking the work for the continuous assessment.

(7) A student who does not undertake the work specified for continuous assessment for a Semester and/or fails to complete such work and/or fails in the continuous assessment, such student may be given an opportunity to do the continuous assessment at the ensuing Semester where it is offered. However, such student shall not be permitted to attend lectures in such Semester except where the Senate on the recommendation of the School permits to undertake the continuous assessment subject to such conditions, including a payment of relevant fees, as may be determined by the Board of Management.

(8) It shall be lawful for the School, following due process, to terminate the registration of any student after one warning in writing, if the progress of study made by such student and the conduct and behaviour of such student are unsatisfactory. When the registration of such student is terminated in terms of this paragraph, no fees shall be refunded.

Retaking of assessment or examination

11. (1) A student may be allowed to retake the assessment or examination of a Course at the next available opportunity as determined by the School, provided the Course is available and the student meets the eligibility requirements for retaking the assessment or examination as specified by these By-Laws and/or relevant Regulations.

(2) Such a student shall pay to the School, the relevant fees as may be determined by the Board of Study for retaking each such evaluation, and shall not be entitled to attend any lectures unless the Senate on the recommendation of the School decides otherwise to permit such student.

(3) If a student takes advantage of the opportunity to retake the evaluation for a course, the highest grade achieved shall be considered for the computation of results for the award of the degree.

(4) No Grade or a percentage score or the result of the evaluation of any Course shall receive official recognition for any purpose unless such Grade or percentage or the result of such evaluation, as the case may be, has been approved by the relevant Board of Examiners and the final results pertaining to the award of the Master's Degree in the relevant year have been confirmed by the Senate.

Grading System and Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA)

12. (1) The Range of Marks and the corresponding Grades and Grade Point Values (GPV) shall be those given in Table 1 below: -

Table 1: Range of Marks, Grades & their Respective Grade Point Values

Range of Marks	Grades	Grade Point Values (GPV)
90–100	A+	4.00
80–89	A	4.00
75–79	A-	3.70
70–74	B+	3.30
65–69	B	3.00
60–64	B-	2.70
55–59	C+	2.30
50–54	C	2.00
45–49	C-	1.70
40–44	D+	1.30
30–39	D	1.00
0-29	E	0.00

Note – The examination division of the School may use additional status codes such as NA (Not Applicable), WH (Withheld), and AB (Absent) to represent the intermediate status of student results.

(2) If the Grade Point Average (GPA) of a student is required for any purpose, it shall be calculated using the following equation:

$$GPA = \frac{\sum(GPV_i \times Credit_i)}{\sum Credit_i}$$

Where –

GPV_i is the Grade Point Value for each course (on a scale from 0 to 4.00)

Credit is the number of credit hours associated with each course

$\sum$ denotes the sum over all the courses in the degree program entitled to the student

The GPA is rounded to the second decimal place.

(3) If a student has registered for more Elective courses than required, regardless of whether this exceeds the minimum number of credits needed, all such courses shall be included in the GPA calculation for that student.

(4) Any student who has not appeared for the evaluation of a Course may be assigned a GPV of 0.00 Value for such Course for the purpose of calculating the GPA of such student.

PART IV
AWARD OF DEGREE

Award of Degree

13. (1) The minimum conditions which a student shall satisfy for the award of the Master of Cybersecurity shall be as follows :-

(a) obtained not lower than C grade (GPV of 2.00) in the Courses which make up a minimum of 30 Credits;

(b) obtained not less than a GPA of 2.00 for all the Courses which make up a minimum of 45 Credits; and

(c) obtained not less than a C Grade (Pass) for the Independent Studies.

(2) Once the Board of Study has decided to award the Degree, the student shall no longer be eligible to continue the Programme, and all pending results shall be rendered null and void.

(3) No student shall be entitled to the award of the Master of Cybersecurity unless such student has satisfied all other relevant requirements and such student has supplicated for the award of the Master's Degree at the relevant Convocation of the University.

PART V
AWARD OF DIPLOMA

Award of Diploma

14. (1) The Senate shall, on the recommendation of the School, have the authority to award a Postgraduate Diploma in Cybersecurity (hereinafter referred to as "Diploma") to a student who has been registered for the Programme but who has not been awarded the Master's Degree.

(2) The requirements for and the conditions under which the Diploma may be awarded shall be as prescribed by Regulations relating to Master of Cybersecurity.

PART VI
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Repeal of By-Laws No.13 of 2018

15. (1) Degree of Master of Cybersecurity By-Laws No. 13 of 2018 are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the said By-Laws, any student who has already been registered under the repealed By-Laws may continue the Programme under and subject to the repealed By-Laws until December 2030.

(3) The students who have been registered under the repealed By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the Master of Cybersecurity under the provisions of such By-Laws may within a period of 12 months from the date these By-Laws come into effect apply to the University that they be considered for transfer of registration for the Programme under the present By-Laws:

Provided however, the Senate shall have 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 recommendation of the Board of Management, Academic Syndicate, and Board of Study.

(4) The Senate, on the recommendation of the Board of Management, Academic Syndicate and Board of Study may consider extending an exemption from following a Course and taking the examination of the Course subject to such conditions as it may deem fit and proper. This decision shall be made by the Senate on a case-by-case basis and its decision shall be final.

(5) The Senate retains the discretion to deny any request made under Paragraph 15. (3) of this By-Law if it thinks that granting such a facility shall be prejudicial to the interests of any stakeholders.

PART VII
REMOVAL OF DIFFICULTIES

16. The Senate of the University shall, in consultation with the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing, have the authority to take such actions or give such directions not inconsistent with the provisions of these By-Laws as appears to the Senate 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 Master's Degree Programme under the earlier arrangements.

PART VIII
INTERPRETATION

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

"Act" means the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978;

"Academic Syndicate" means the Academic Syndicate established under the provisions of the University of Colombo School of Computing Ordinance, No. 01 of 2002;

"Board of Management" means the Board of Management of the University of Colombo School of Computing;

"Board of Study" means the Board of Study for Research and Higher Degrees of the University of Colombo School of Computing;

"Council" means the Council of the University of Colombo;

"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;

"Prescribed" means prescribed by Regulations;

"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;

"School" means the University of Colombo School of Computing established by Order made under Section 24A read with Section 18 of the Act;

"Senate" means the Senate of the University of Colombo; and

"University" means the University of Colombo.

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

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

MASTER OF CYBERSECURITY

REGULATIONS

Regulations made by the Senate of the University of Colombo under Section 136 of the Universities Act, No.16 of 1978 read with section 13 of the University of Colombo School of Computing Ordinance, No. 1 of 2002.

Regulations

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Master of Cybersecurity Regulations No ..... of 2026 and shall come into operations on ..... August 2026.

(2) These Regulations shall be read in conjunction with the Master of Cybersecurity By-Laws No. ……... of 2026.

PART I
ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

2. There shall be assigned, to each Course offered in the Programme leading to the Master of Cybersecurity, a Course Code, Title (Name), Level & Semester, Number of Credits [or Credit Value] and whether it is a Compulsory (Core) or Optional (Elective) Academic Course, the details of which are specified in the Schedule hereto.

3. (1) Each Credit Value shall correspond to different quantum of hours depending on the type of learning activities, the guidelines of which are as specified in Table 1 below: -

Table 1. Guidelines for Volume of Learning

Course Description	Credit Value	Direct Staff-Student Contact Hours	Notional Hours (direct staff-student contact hours and independent learning)
Lecture Course	1	15	50
Laboratory Course	1	30	50

Independent Studies	5	Variable	500

(2) The minimum number of Credits per Course is one.

(3) One Credit shall be considered equivalent to 50 Notional Learning Hours for a Lecture (Taught) Course and Laboratory Course. In the case of Independent Studies, a minimum of 100 notional hours shall be equivalent to one Credit.

4. The Senate shall, on the recommendation of the Academic Syndicate, have the power to amend the list of Courses, Course Codes, Course Titles (Name), Level & Semester, and Number of Credits (Credit Values) and whether Compulsory or Optional.

5. The detailed syllabus applicable to the Courses shall be as determined from time-to-time by the Academic Syndicate and approved by the Senate.

PART II
ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS

6. The procedure for continuous assessment, forms of evaluation in respect of each Course and the mode of their evaluation shall be decided by the relevant Board of Study and approved by the Academic Syndicate. The Academic Syndicate shall also have power, on the recommendation of the relevant Board of Study, to determine the structure and rubric of question papers on each Course when and where relevant.

7. Each Course including the Independent Studies shall be marked out of 100.

8. Each student shall submit assignments within a period as may be determined by the School.

Independent Studies

9. Each student enrolled in the Programme shall undertake Independent Studies on selected topics in the Fourth Semester of the Programme and submit a Portfolio.

10. (1) Students who engage in Independent Studies shall undertake a set of problems specified by the Course Coordinator and submit a Report for each Study based on the solution proposed to the given problems. Such student shall, through the Report and/or Oral Examination demonstrate the knowledge of the methods of problem solving, the competence to present material systematically and the ability to analyse and interpret results/data, and translate theoretical knowledge into practical applications by designing, implementing and providing solutions to real world problems.

(2) Such student shall undertake a minimum of eight (8) such Studies and a maximum of ten (10) such Studies.

(3) Each student shall submit a Portfolio based on the solutions proposed for the completed Independent Studies together with Log forms at the end of the Fourth Semester adhering to the format and guidelines as specified by the Academic Syndicate. However, it shall not be submitted unless the Course Coordinator has certified that the student has solved all the given problems/Independent Studies. An oral examination on this Portfolio may be a part of the process of assessment.

(4) The Portfolio shall demonstrate the student's proficiency in problem-solving methodologies, systematic information presentation, and data analysis and interpretation, and shall illustrate their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations by devising, implementing, proposing solutions to real-world problems, and self-reflection on the learning of such students.

(5) The students shall adhere strictly to the Policy, Regulations and Rules of the University on plagiarism in undertaking the Independent Studies. Unacceptable acts of plagiarism include, but not restricted to, such actions as taking the work of others and passing them off as their own work; providing neither proper references to the original sources nor quotation marks; making use of their own work submitted already for another academic programme; getting someone else, and including artificial intelligence tools in writing the Portfolio/Reports but claiming such work as their own work.

(6) If plagiarism is detected, disciplinary action will be taken against the student based on the recommendation of the Examinations Committee of the University. Penalties may include rejection of the plagiarized Portfolio/Reports and cancellation of the student’s registration with the University, with or without future registration debarment. Such dishonest actions will incur penalties as determined by the Examinations Committee of the University.

(7) A student shall be deemed to have passed the Oral Examination for the Independent Studies if such student satisfies the Board of Examiners of the criteria/requirements specified in Paragraph 10.(1) and 10.(4) of this Regulations and other requirements specified in these By-Laws and/or any other By-Laws, Regulations and Rules of the University or the School as the case may be.

PART III
ELIGIBILITY FOR PROGRESSION

11. (1) The conditions for progression within the Programme shall be as follows :-

(a) A Student who has obtained a minimum of 1.50 GPA for all the courses at the First and Second Semesters may proceed to the Third and Fourth Semester Courses; and

(b) A student who has obtained not less than a C grade (GPV of 2.00) for Courses which add up or exceed 11 Credits in the First and/or Second Semesters may proceed to the Third and Fourth Semester Courses.

(2) A student who has not met the criteria specified in Sub-Paragraphs (a) and/or (b) above may submit a written request to the School for consideration of progression to the Third and Fourth Semester Courses under exceptional circumstances. The School has the authority to review and decide on such requests on a case-by-case basis.

PART IV
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

12. A student who has secured not less than a C grade (GPV of 2.00) for the Courses which add up or exceed 25 Credits may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Cybersecurity, provided however, such student satisfies other conditions for the award of such Diploma as specified in these Regulations or the relevant By-Laws.

13. Any student wishes to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Cybersecurity shall satisfy the following :-

(a) such student has obtained a minimum GPA of 2.00 (the GPA is calculated for courses adding up to a minimum of 25 Credits using the best grades);

(b) such student has not qualified to be awarded the Master's Degree; and

(c) such student has made a written request for the award of the Diploma.

14. After a written request from the student has been approved by the Senate and the decision is made to award the Diploma the student is no longer eligible to continue the Master's Degree.

PART V
INTERPRETATION

15. In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise -

"Act" means the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978;

"Academic Syndicate" means the Academic Syndicate established under the provisions of the University of Colombo School of Computing Ordinance, No. 01 of 2002;

"Board of Management" means the Board of Management of the University of Colombo School of Computing;

"Board of Study" means the Board of Study for Research and Higher Degrees of the University of Colombo School of Computing;

"Council" means the Council of the University of Colombo;

"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;

"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;

"School" means the University of Colombo School of Computing established by Order made under Section 24A read with Section 18 of the Act;

"Senate" means the Senate of the University of Colombo; and

"University" means the University of Colombo.

SCHEDULE

A. The Course Codes, Titles, Credits, Standing (Compulsory [C]/Optional[O]) based on the Semester are as follows [** denotes courses that span one year]:

First Semester Courses

Code	Title	Credits	Standing
MC 1101	Cybersecurity Fundamentals and Concepts	3	C
MC 1102	Secure Network Design and Standards	3	C
MC 1103	Secure Software Engineering	3	C
MC 1104	Special Topics in Cybersecurity**	4	C

Second Semester Courses

Code	Title	Credits	Standing
MC 2101	Secure Cloud Infrastructure and Cyber Resilient Systems	3	C
MC 2102	Security Operations and Incident Management	3	C
MC 2103	Database Security	3	C
MC 2104	Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC)	3	C

Third Semester Courses

Code	Title	Credits	Standing
MC 3101	Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)	3	C
MC 3102	Digital Forensics	3	C
MC 3103	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Security	2	C
MC 3104	Security in Mobile and Wireless Networks	2	C

Fourth Semester Courses

Code	Title	Credits	Standing
MC 4101	Offensive Security Engineering	3	C
MC 4102	Cybercrime and Law	2	C
MC 4103	Independent Studies in Cybersecurity	5	C