UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)

By-Laws

2024

Approved by the Council
Meeting No 616
Date 18.01.2024

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)

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.

By-Laws

1. (a.) These By-Laws may be cited as the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD) No. 01 of 2024.

   (b.) These By-Laws shall be deemed to have come into operation with effect from 18th March 2024

PART I - GENERAL

2. Subject to these By-Laws a person may be awarded the degree of Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (hereinafter referred to as the "MHRD") if she / he has:

   (a) been duly registered for the MHRD program for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;

   (b) pursued the program of study in the University to the satisfaction of the Vice-Chancellor as prescribed by these By- Laws, and other Regulations and Rules of the University;

   (c) satisfied the examiners of the programme at all forms of assessment including continuous assessments (such as assignments, etc.), semester-end examinations and Dissertation component;

   (d) paid the registration, tuition, supervision, examination, library and other fees and deposits 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 and the Rules and Regulations of the University.

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3. 1.) Applications for registration for the program leading to the MHRD shall be invited by notice in the newspapers and/or on the University notice board and/or on-line through the website/internet.

   2.) A person who wishes to follow the program leading to the MHRD shall make an application through the conventional and/or on-line mode to the Registrar when the said program is advertised.

   3.) The application shall be on the prescribed form providing the information as he/she shall be required to submit, including his/her qualifications for undertaking the programof study.

4. There shall be a Coordinator for the program and she/he shall be appointed by the Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR).

5. The Director of the CSHR refers the applications received to the Coordinator of the program. The Coordinator, having examined the applications for necessary minimum qualifications, shall call the eligible candidates for a selection test and/or an interview to be conducted by a panel including the Director - CSHR, and the Academic Coordinator on which selections may be made. The list of candidates so selected shall be recommended to the Senate through the Academic Committee and Higher Degrees Committee and Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law (hereinafter the Faculty Board).

6. No candidate shall be eligible for admission to the program leading to the MHRD Degree, unless he/she has the following requirements as per the SLQF (2015):

   (i) A Bachelor's degree from any recognized university or an equivalent qualification recognized by the University of Colombo;
   (a) including 30 credits in the relevant subject area
   or
   (b) with prior learning/work experience equivalent to 30 credits in the relevant subject area
   or

   (ii) An educational/professional qualification in the relevant subject area equivalent to 1(a) or 1(b) with prior learning/work experience which is acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University of Colombo
   or

   (iii) Completion of NVQ level 7, as determined by the Senate of the University of Colombo

   and
   A good knowledge of English language and satisfactory performance at a selection test and / or selection interview.

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[such candidates shall hereinafter be referred to as 'Local Master's Degree Students']; or

(iv) A person who has successfully completed the First Semester of the Master's Degree Programme at the Mahidol University as certified by the said University and who has been selected by the Mahidol University in conjunction with the University of Colombo to follow the Second Semester of the Master's Degree Programme in the University of Colombo

[such candidates shall hereinafter be referred to as 'International Master's Degree Students'].

7. If the number of persons who have applied and/or who are registered for the study program in any given academic year is not sufficient, in the opinion of the Faculty Board, to make the conducting of the study program financially viable, the Faculty Board reserves the right not to conduct the program, subject to the University refunding any fees except the application fees, that may have been received from candidates.

8. 1.) On acceptance of the candidature by the Faculty Board and the Senate, a person shall forthwith register as a postgraduate candidate for MHRD Degree of the University upon payment of the prescribed registration, tuition, examination, library and other fees and/or deposits.

   2.) Unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board, the minimum period of registration for the MHRD program shall be one (01) academic year, and the maximum period shall not exceed three (03) academic years counted from the date of commencement of the program. The initial registration (herein after referred to as the first period of registration) shall be valid for an academic year from the date of commencement of the program.

9. 1.) The registration for MHRD program shall be deemed to have lapsed at the expiry of its period of validity. A candidate whose registration has so lapsed may renew her/his registration for a further period of another academic year subject to Clause 18(3), provided the MHRD program and the Faculty Board consider her/him eligible for such registration. However, no registration shall be renewed after the expiry of two (02) academic years from the end of the first period of registration. Any such candidate may seek registration for the MHRD program as a fresh candidate if she/he failed to obtain the MHRD Degree after the expiry of the maximum period of registration (i.e. three years), in competition with new applicants under the rules in force at the time of seeking such fresh registration.

   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.

   3.) A person who is registered as a candidate for the program shall devote her/his time to her/his studies at the University.

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10. No student shall abstain from participating at classes (lectures, discussions, seminars etc.) or leave the country, or withdraw from examination or a classroom test whether conducted through the conventional mode and/or information communication technology driven on-line mode or a combination of multi-modes, without prior approval from the Faculty Board.

PART II – STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

11. 1.) The program leading to the MHRD Degree, which is unless otherwise decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board for special reasons, shall be one (01) academic year with six (06) courses of 18 total credit values, and a Dissertation or Internship Report component of 15,000-18,000 words which carry 12 credits, offered in two semesters as prescribed in the Schedule.

    2.) Local master's degree Students who are opting for the Internship will be required to complete an Internship Placement at a host institution working in the fields of human rights and/or democratisation, an Organisational Output and an Internship Research Report.

    3.) The titles of the courses, syllabi, course codes, credit values and other details are those 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 and other details of the program. Such amendments shall come into effect after due notice.

12. The Program of Study and Examinations leading to the MHRD will be conducted in the conventional mode and/or through the information communication technology driven on-line mode or a combination of multi-modes and these By-Laws, and other relevant By-Laws, Rules and Regulations passed by the University of Colombo shall be so applied and interpreted in order to facilitate the effective conduct of the study program without compromising its integrity and quality.

13. The medium of instruction and examination shall be English.

14. The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board shall appoint a Board of Examiners to conduct examinations and assess the performance of candidates.

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PART III

SCHEME OF EVALUATION AND

CRITERIA FOR PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION OR INCOMPLETE

15. 1.) The evaluation of a candidate's performance at each of the courses shall take the form of continuous assessments and end-of-semester written examinations. Each course shall carry a maximum of 100 marks.
    2.) In each of the taught courses 70 percent of the maximum mark shall be based on continuous assessments which assess the performance of the candidate at assignments, class-room tests, quizzes, reports, discussions, seminars, oral presentations etc.
    3.) The balance 30 percent of marks shall be used for assessing the performance of the candidates at the end of semester open book written examination in an examination hall setting.

16. 1.) Candidates may be evaluated in respect of continuous assessments by the teachers concerned.
    2.) The End of Semester written question papers of the course shall be prepared, as far as possible, by the relevant teachers and moderated by an expert of the subject.
    3.) The examination of written answer scripts of the Eof Semester Examinations and the Dissertation/Internship Report shall be assessed by two independent examiners appointed by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.

17. The End of Semester Examination of each Semester shall be as held far as possible at the end of the relevant Semester, unless the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, decides otherwise.

18. 1.) A candidate shall take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction.

    2.) Any candidate who fails to take the End-of-Semester Examination at the very first occasion when it is held for the Semester after the completion of lectures and other forms of instruction shall, unless excused on medical grounds or any other valid grounds approved by the Senate on recommendation of the Faculty Board, be deemed to have exhausted an attempt at taking the Examination when calculating the total number of attempts at which a candidate can take the Examination.

    3.) No candidate shall be eligible to take the End-of-Semester Examination on more than two (02) occasions (attempts) and in calculating the number of occasions (attempts) a candidate is eligible to take the Examination, the deemed attempt as referred to in sub-Clause (2) above shall also be taken into account.

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19. 1.) A person shall not be permitted to take the End of Semester Examination unless she/he has:

(i) been duly registered as a MHRD candidate from the commencement of the academic year for which the examination is held;

(ii) satisfied a minimum of 80% of attendance required at lectures, seminars etc.;

(iii) has ensured that she/he has paid the necessary examination fees and made other payments to the University duly in respect of the entire Examination or those courses which she/he has been required to take, as the case may be;

(iv) registered with the Examinations Branch of the University for the Examination she/he intends to sit; and

(v) duly applied for the examination in accordance with the prescribed manner.

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 she/he satisfies the requirements mentioned in the Sub-Clause (1) above.

3.) All rules relating to the examinations and assessments as contained in the Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishment Regulation No. 1 of 1986, and its subsequent amendments shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the MHRD examinations as well.

4.) Without prejudice to the generality of the Regulation No. 1 of 1986 as amended, rules relating to the different forms of on-line assessment and Classroom Tests shall be formulated and implemented by the Coordinator and the relevant course teacher. Any matters relating to such rules shall be decided by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the Coordinator and the Academic Committee relevant to the program. Such rules may vary from course to course as well as from year to year. Such rules shall be tabled at the Faculty Board as soon as possible.

5.) No change of these rules can take place without giving adequate notice to the candidates of the program.

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20. 1.) Rules relating to assignments, presentations, classroom tests and other examinations shall be announced, from time to time, by the Program Coordinator in consultation with the teachers concerned and the Director - CSHR with the approval of the Academic Committee and Faculty Board and such rules shall not be changed orrevoked unless otherwise decided by the Faculty Board.

2.) The Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall have the power to set down the rules governing the conduct of examinations and assessments as well as to deal with any situation for which rules have already not been made.

21. (1) Each of the Six (06) taught courses and the Dissertation/Internship Report component shall carry a maximum grade point value of 4.00.

(2) A candidate's performance in each of the courses shall be graded according to the following scheme and the calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) is carried out considering the Grade Point Value for each such courses and credits allocated accordingly.

Scheme of Assessment

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade Point Value	Result
90-100	A^+	4.00	Distinction
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A-	3.70	
70-74	B^+	3.30	Credit
65-69	B	3.00	
60-64	B^-	2.70	Pass
55-59	C^+	2.30	
50-54	C	2.00	
45-49	C^-	1.70	Fail
40-44	D^+	1.30	
30-39	D	1.00	
00-29	E	0.00	

(Source: UGC Circular No. 901/2008)

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

Where GPV_i and C_i are the Grade Point Value earned and credit values allocated respectively for the nth courses. Any calculated GPA shall be rounded to the second decimal place.

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22. A candidate shall be deemed to have been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree if he/she obtains 18 credits from all the taught courses and 12 credits from the Dissertation or Internship Report component.

23. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Distinction at the examination if she/he obtains a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.70 or more.

24. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Credit at the examination if she/he obtains a minimum GPA score between 3.00 and 3.69.

25. A candidate who has been successful at the examination leading to the award of the MHRD Degree may be awarded a Pass at the examination if she/he obtains GPA score between 2.00 and 2.99.

26. 1.) A candidate shall be deemed to have an incomplete result in one or more taught courses or Dissertation or Internship Report component of the MHRD program if she/he obtains GPV (Grade Point Value) less than 2.00.

    2.) A candidate who has incomplete result having obtained a GPV of less than 2.00 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 conducted during the particular semester.

    3.) A candidate who obtains a GPV of less than 2.00 in the Dissertation / Internship Report shall be considered unsuccessful and incomplete in the Dissertation or Internship Report component and shall be required to re-submit the Dissertation or Internship Report within a period of one year.

27. A candidate with incomplete results shall be eligible for one (1) further attempt provided she/he has a valid registration to satisfy the relevant conditions provided in the Section 18. She/he shall take the courses in which she/he has been unsuccessful on the very next occasion when the examination in held provided that she/he is eligible to take the examination.

28. The University shall announce through notification the names of candidates who have passed the MHRD examination and those who have incomplete results in the MHRD examination after completing the whole examination.

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PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS

29. 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. The fees paid shall under no circumstances be refunded except under section 7 of these By-laws.

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 process.

3.) The fee payable for a certificate or statement of results or transcripts shall be determined by the Council.

4.) The fee shall be charged for replacement of a lost student identity card or lost library card at rates determined by the Council.

PART V - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

30. 1.) Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-Laws, the candidates who have already been registered under the provisions of the By-Laws of MHRD No. 05 of 2014, (hereinafter referred to as the 2014 By-Laws) shall be entitled to continue their program under and subject to those provisions.

2.) Any candidate who has already been registered for the MHRD program under the 2014 By-Laws shall enjoy a transition period of three (3) years within which they shall be governed by those provisions to complete their program according to the requirements of the MHRD program.

3.) The candidates who have been registered under the MHRD program under the 2014 By-Laws and who have not successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MHRD under those provisions (the MHRD program) may within a period of one (01) year from these By-Laws come into effect apply to the University that they be considered for transfer to 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.

4.) a.) 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 a 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.

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b.) The Council retains the discretion to deny any request made under sub-clause 30.4(a) above, if it thinks that granting the facility will be prejudicial to the interests of any stakeholders.

31. The Vice Chancellor of the University shall have the authority, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Law, 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 her/him 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 MHRD Program under the earlier arrangements and/or By-Laws.

PART VI- INTERPRETATIONS

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

"Academic Committee" means the Academic Committee of the CSHR relevant to the above postgraduate degree programme.

"Application" means an application for registration or for entry to an examination.

"Council" means the Council of the University of Colombo constituted by the University Act. No. 16 of 1978. (As amended subsequently).

"CSHR" means the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

"Faculty" means the Faculty of Law.

"Faculty Board" means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law.

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

33. Any questions regarding the interpretation of the By-Laws shall be referred to the Council whose decision there on shall be final.

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SCHEDULE

Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (MHRD)

SLQF Level 09

The program of study leading to the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation shall offer the subjects as given below in the academic year (Semester I & II).

Academic year	Code of Courses	Name of Course	Number of credits
Semester I	MHRD 9101	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms (Part I) (HRNM I)	03
	MHRD 9102	Democracy Theory and Practice (DTP)	03
	MHRD 9103	Dynamics of Human Rights Violations (DHRV)	03
	MHRD 9104	Human Rights and Democratisation Research (HRDR)	03
Semester II	MHRD 9201	Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms (Part II) (HRNM II)	03
	MHRD 9202	Critical and Emerging Issues in the Asia Pacific (CEIR)	03
	MHRD 9203	Dissertation / Internship Report	12
Total Credits			**30**

Graduate Profile

Subject Specific Outcomes
Knowledge More contextualised and practical understanding on human rights and democracy.
Skills Monitoring and preparing practical/advocacy related tools for human rights and democracy.
Attitudes Greater competence at working with human rights and democratisation defenders.
Mind-set and Paradigm
Face the challenges of the modern world.

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