



**LL.B Degree Programme
Students' Prospectus
Academic Year 2016/17**



**Department of Legal Studies
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Open University of Sri Lanka**

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE
Academic Year 2016/17

Welcome to the LL.B Degree Programme of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

We are pleased that you have decided to apply for enrolment to the Bachelor of Laws Degree Programme. While wishing you success in your endeavour, we on our part, will assist you to achieve your academic goals during your university career in the Open University.

This brochure will provide you basic information on the Open University and the LL.B Degree Programme. It consists of two parts. Part I provides general information about the Open University, its teaching and learning system, network of Regional Centres etc. Part II provides specific information on LL.B Degree Programme and its academic activities.

While we make every effort to provide you up-to-date information on the LL.B Degree Programme, we wish to emphasize that the information provided here is applicable to the programme offered by the Open University for the Academic year 2016/2017 only. The subsequent changes in regulation or in overall policy of the Open University could render the information in this brochure inapplicable. In such situations, we will keep you informed of those new changes.

I together with my Academic and Non-academic staff, once again wish you every success for all your future academic endeavours.

Rohana Ratnayake
Head
Department of Legal Studies

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE
2016/2017**

PART I - GENERAL INFORMATION

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) is an academically autonomous National University in Sri Lanka. It provides higher education through distance learning. Any person over the age of 18 years may pursue programmes of study at OUSL leading to a certificate, Diploma, First Degree, Post-graduate Degree or other academic qualifications.

The OUSL, from the point of view of those whom it attracts as students, is both a home-study university and a university of the later life learning. It offers an opportunity for those who have missed opportunities to follow a programme of study to do so at a later-stage in their life.

The OUSL was established under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and the Open University of Sri Lanka Ordinance No. 01 of 1990. It has the same legal and academic status as any other National University in Sri Lanka. Like other conventional universities in Sri Lanka, the OUSL too has its own Council which is its executive and academic body and its governing authority as well as a Senate which acts as the apex academic decision making body. The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University. The university has its own full time staff both academic and non academic and also its own Central Campus and a network of Regional and District Study Centres.

The University has five Faculties viz. **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Faculty of Health Sciences**. These faculties offer different programmes of study ranging

from certificates to Postgraduate degrees such as Ph.D. The Dean is the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Faculty. Under each faculty, there are Departments of Study which deal with specific disciplines of study. Each Department of Study has a Head who is responsible for the administrative and academic activities of the Department.

Department of Legal Studies conducts programmes of study leading to LL.B and LL.M Degrees.

2. COURSES AND THE PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

Since the Open University is different from other conventional universities, you will be required to familiarise yourself with the specific vocabulary used by the University in its day to day activities.

For example, a COURSE is the basic unit of study, normally completed over a period of an academic year. A **PROGRAMME OF STUDY** may consist of many courses. LL. B Degree Programme is a **Programme of Study** which consists of **16 courses** that students may study throughout its four-year duration.

The successful completion of courses offered by a particular Programme of Study leads to the award of Certificate, Diploma, Degree or Postgraduate degree. These qualifications can be obtained through one of the following category of study programmes.

- (1) Foundation Programme
- (2) Certificate Programmes
- (3) Diploma Programmes
- (4) Bachelor's Degree Programmes
- (5) Postgraduate Programmes
- (6) Continuing Education Programmes

Foundation Programmes form the gateway to other academic programmes and is offered at two levels: First Level and Second Level in the basic disciplines. A student, who has passed the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination may on successful completion of Foundation Level Programme attain an educational level required to apply for any study programmes of the Open University.

Also, a student who has dropped out of formal education system even before completing G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination and given up all hopes of pursuing higher education, is able to study disciplines such as Law by re-starting their academic studies from Foundation Level¹. **However, it should be noted that a student who successfully completes a foundation programme needs to sit for Admission Test and be successful at the Test to be selected for the LL.B. Degree Programme.**

3. STUDY SYSTEM

Printed Course Material/ Course Books – Under the Open-Distance Learning (ODL) methodology adopted by the OUSL, printed materials play an important role. Students registered for a particular Study Programme are given printed course materials at the time of registration and also on subsequent occasions. Students are expected to study them and attend Day Schools conducted at the respective Regional Centres and Study Centres. Day Schools help students to obtain better understanding on the subjects. Therefore, students are required to attend Day Schools and discuss with the teaching academics.

Audio-visual Material -These devices are used in the ODL system to supplement Day Schools. These audio-visual materials take the form of video film, audio cassettes and power point presentations etc.

Day School²- Day Schools (conducted during weekends) provide limited face to face encounters with the lecturer at Regional Centres and District Study Centres. The visiting academics appointed by the University conduct face to face sessions (Day Schools) at these centres. Students are supposed to study printed course materials given to them in advance and discuss them with Visiting Academics at Day Schools.

¹Department of Legal Studies does not conduct Foundation Level courses. However, Department of Social Studies conducts such courses in the discipline of Humanities and Social Sciences.

² Day Schools means face to face teaching -learning sessions

Online Courses – Online courses are offered by some of the faculties of the University depending on the availability of expertise and facilities. Students registered for a particular course can register for the online component of that course. At present, Department of Legal Studies makes several courses online (Moodle) as supplementary to the printed course books. Accordingly, the courses available online under LL.B Degree Programme contain only study materials such as case reports, research articles, statutes and past question papers relevant to the particular courses etc.

Students should have access to NODES web portal to obtain this facility³.

4. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Students' performance is evaluated throughout the course of studies. Students are required to sit for several tests and submit a number of assignments throughout the academic year. Those are evaluated, graded and returned to them together with the marks and examiners' written comments.

This evaluation system of students' performance is called "Continuous Assessment System" or CAS. The form, structure and number of these assignments will be decided by the Department and may vary from course to course and from year to year. For example, it could take the form of Closed Book Tests (CBTs), Open Book Tests (OBTs), Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs), Oral Presentations or Project Reports, etc.

Students should read all instructions given to them and should understand the importance of CAS. Department does not encourage students merely to sit for Final Examination held at the end of a particular academic year. They are required to sit for Continuous Assessment Tests (CAT) conducted throughout the year and obtain required marks. 30% of these marks will be added to the marks of the Final Examination conducted at the end of the year.

³ Facility- You should visit NODES-OUSL page <http://ousl.nodes.lk>

At the end of each course a Final Examination is held. The final grade of a particular course is determined by the overall mark obtained by assignments and year-end examinations.

Accordingly, thirty percent (30%) of marks of a particular course can be obtained by Continuous Assessment (CA) while the balance 70% can be obtained from Final Examination of that course. This emphasizes that CA tests are an important component of the examination system in the Open University study system and obtaining marks at the CA Tests is essential for successful completion of a course.

5. REGIONAL CENTRES AND STUDY CENTRES

At present OUSL has eight Regional Centres in Colombo, Kandy, Matara, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Badulla, and Kurunegala. Students who are registered in a particular Regional Centre are required to follow academic activities in that Regional Centre throughout their academic career until graduation.

A network of Study Centres is being developed by the Open University throughout the island to provide facilities for students. At present, there are 19 Study Centres established throughout the country.

6. LIBRARY FACILITIES

Reference facilities are provided at the Main Library situated within the Central Campus of the OUSL and Regional Libraries. Library staff in these libraries will help you to obtain necessary information regarding materials you require. Students are advised to use library facilities and read case reports, statutes and text books as these are important source materials used under the LL.B Degree Programme to acquire knowledge.

7. FEES AND OTHER COSTS

The Open University is a fee-levying distance learning institution and therefore registered students should pay fees for their studies at the Open University. Course fees are charged from students annually to cover expenses on course materials which include Print and Audio-

Visual materials, payment of fees for Visiting Academics and Examiners and conducting Continuous Assessment Tests and Final Examinations.

An applicant, who is offered a placement in the OUSL for a study programme will receive a voucher for the payment of applicable fee. The fee should be paid prior to enrolment. The payable cost is itemized in the voucher. Tuition fee for each academic year is payable in two instalments, of which the first installment should be paid before registration.

This fee is only a 1/3 of the total cost and the balance 2/3 is subsidized by the Government of Sri Lanka.

PARTII -BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE PROGRAMME

8. INTRODUCTION

Department of Legal Studies of the Open University has been offering the Bachelor of Laws Degree Programme since 1984. It is the only university in Sri Lanka which offers a Law Degree Programme in the Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

The aims and objectives of the Department in designing this programme include inter alia the following:

- * to guide and assist students to acquire knowledge in core courses in law with the necessary academic orientation in the ODL environment.
- * to develop skills of intellectual reasoning, investigation and critical analysis.
- * to create an understanding of the law in action and the role of law in contemporary society.
- * to help students develop analytical skills and the ability to apply law to contemporary realities.
- * to help students to develop advocacy skills, presentation and writing skills.
- * to develop skills in legal research and the ability to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to law.

9. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

9.1 To apply for registration/enrolment as a student of the OUSL for Bachelor of Laws Degree Programme in the Academic year 2016/2017, candidates should have **acquired one of the following academic/professional qualifications at the time of applying for the programme.**

(a) Successful completion of any Foundation Programmes at Levels 1 and 2 at the Open University;

OR

(b) **Four passes**, at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination under the old syllabus which had 4 subjects of which at least **three passes** should have been obtained at one sitting and the other subject should have been completed at a subsequent sitting;

OR

(c) **Three passes in core subjects in** one sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination under the new syllabus;

OR

(d) An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate;

OR

(e) Be an Attorney-at-Law

9.2 Applicants with any of the above qualifications (except Attorneys-at-Law) should sit for an Admission Test in order to gain admission to LL.B Programme they should obtain the minimum cut-off mark declared by the University.

9.3 Applicants who apply on the basis of being Attorneys-at-Law are exempted from the Admission Test and from all four courses in Level 3. They will therefore obtain direct registration in Level 4. However, such applicants are subject to all other rules and regulations of the programme.

- 9.4 A person with a degree in law from foreign universities may be exempted from the Admission Test and may obtain direct registration in Level 3 if those foreign qualifications are recognized and accepted by the OUSL one valuation.
- 9.5 A candidate must sit for the Admission Test at the Regional Centre where he/she intends to pursue studies.
- 9.6 Admission Test for the selection of students has been scheduled to be held on **05th March 2017**.
- 9.7 This year too as in the past, the Admission Test will consist of four separate papers as stated below. The time allocated for the entire Test will be 3 hours. However, there is a change in the structure of the test as indicated below.

Examination structure				
	Title of Paper	Marks Allocated	Time expected to be spent	Weightage Given (Minimum mark to be obtained to qualify)
Paper 1	General Intelligence	100	60 minutes	No minimum mark
Paper 11	General Knowledge	100	40 minutes	No minimum mark
Paper III	Sinhala/ Tamil language	50	40 minutes	40% (i.e. 20 marks)
Paper IV	English language	50	40 minutes	30% (i.e. 15 marks)

This table indicates that in addition to obtaining higher marks for General Intelligence and General Knowledge papers, a candidate should compulsorily obtain a minimum mark of 20 for the Sinhala/Tamil Language paper and 15 marks for the English Language Paper if he/she is to be selected at the Admission Test. This means that even though a candidate gets higher marks for Paper I - General Intelligence and Paper II - General Knowledge papers, he/she will not become

eligible to pass the LL. B Admission Test if he/ she does not obtain above mentioned minimum marks for Paper III and Paper IV.

10. AVAILABLE PLACEMENT/SEAT AT REGIONAL CENTRES

10.1 The number of seats/placements available at each Regional Centre and the medium in which Academic Activities are conducted in those centres in the academic year 2016/2017 are given below:

Regional Centre	Allocated Seats	Medium		
		Sinhala	English	Tamil
Colombo	210	√	√	√
Kandy	110	√	√	√
Matara	110	√	-	-
Anuradhapura	60	√	-	-
Jaffna	60	-	-	√
Batticaloa	60	-	-	√
Badulla	60	√	-	√
Kurunegala	60	√	-	-

10.2 The number of placements/seats available at each Regional Centre will be filled strictly in descending order of marks obtained by candidates at the Admission Test. Under no circumstances would a candidate be considered for filling the placement of another Regional Centre other than what is chosen by that candidate.

You should select your Regional Centre which is nearest to your place of **permanent residence** and **the medium** which you are intend to follow the programme.

10.3 Students registered to follow LL.B Degree Programme must participate in all academic Activities and examinations only at the Regional Centre selected by them.

A candidate registered for a particular Regional Centre will not be permitted under any circumstances, to change the Regional Centre or sit for any test or examination in a Regional Centre other than the Centre in which he/she has registered. In brief, registered Regional Centre should remain unchanged until graduation.

11. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

11.1 Printed course books are provided in all three media at Levels 3 and 4. However, the printed course materials of Levels 5 and 6 are in English only as a measure to help develop language competency of students. As bilingualism is promoted by the Department, good knowledge in both the mother tongue and English will be an added advantage in pursuing studies successfully.

12. COMMENCEMENT OF STUDY PROGRAMME

The study programme leading to Degree of Bachelor of Laws will commenced in August 2017 in the Academic Year 2016/2017.

13. FEES PAYABLE BY STUDENTS

The fees payable by students are as follows:

Registration Fee	-	Rs.	400.00
Facility Fee	-	Rs.	1500.00
Library Fee	-	Rs.	100.00
Tuition Fee per credit ⁴	-	Rs.	950.00
English for Legal Studies- Programme (per credit)		Rs:	4000.00 ⁵

The total tuition fee payable by a candidate depends on the number of credits he/she wishes to enrol for a particular academic year.

⁴There are 36 credits for an academic year

⁵Vide paragraph 14 infra for more details

- Foreign students will be charged four (4) times the fee charged for local students.
- The University reserves the right to revise the fees above if necessary.

14. CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (LEGAL STUDIES)

- 14.1 Department of Language Studies conducts a special programme in English for students pursuing LL.B Degree Programme. This programme of study is compulsory for all students registered for LL.B. Degree Programme.
- 14.2 All students who are selected to follow LL.B Programme will be graded based on their performance in the English Language paper at the Admission Test. They will either be exempted from or required to follow the English Language programme depending on their performance at the Language paper.

Please note that completion of the English Language Programme is compulsory requirement except for those students who have been exempted from English Language in the award of the LL.B Degree.

15. DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The curriculum of the LL.B Degree Programme envisages a 12 month academic year at each level. Therefore, a student who pursues his/her studies continuously without being failed or repeated will be able to complete the programme of study within four years. In brief, the programme can be completed in four academic years of 12 months duration. However, students are required to complete LL.B Degree Programme **within a maximum of twelve (12) academic years from his or her initial registration (Students are required to complete Level 3 courses within a maximum of four (4) academic years from his or her initial registration).**

16. APPROVED COURSES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS

16.1 Level 3

The following courses are taught in Level 3.

<u>Course Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
LWU1201	Constitutional Law I
LWU1202	Principles of Equity ⁶
LWU1411	Introduction to the Laws of Sri Lanka
LWU1412	Legal Method

Level 4

To promote from Level 3 to Level 4, student must complete all four courses of Level 3 viz. LWU1411, LWU1412 LWU1201 and LWU1202 **within a maximum of four (4) academic years from his or her initial registration.**

<u>Course Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
LWU 2311	Law of Contracts
LWU 2312	Criminal Law
LWU 2313	Family Law
LWU 2314	Constitutional Law II

⁶However, a student may proceed from Level 3 to Level 4 without completing LWU1202 – Principles of Equity

Level 5

To promote from Level 4 to Level 5, student must, except an Attorney-at-Law who is exempted from Level 3 courses, must complete;

- (a) ALL Courses in Level 3
- (b) ALL Courses in Level 4

Course Code

Course Title

LWU 3311	Administrative Law
LWU 3312	Land Law
LWU 3314	Environmental Law
LWU 3315	Public International Law

Level 6

To promote from Level 5 to level 6, student must complete all four courses in Level 3, 4 and 5 or at least must obtain eligibility⁷ in all four courses of Level 5.

Course Code

Course Title

LWU 4321	Jurisprudence ⁸
LWU 4323	Labour Law
LWU 4324	Commercial Law
LWU 4325	Human Rights Law
LWU 4326	Law of Delict

⁷ Eligibility- It refers to obtaining of the minimum required mark from Continuous Assessment Test for each subject and without obtaining this minimum mark, student will not be allowed to sit Final Examination of the relevant subject.

⁸LWU4321- Jurisprudence, LWU4326 – Law of Delict are core/compulsory courses. Students may choose any two courses from any of the balance three courses.

IMPORTANT

Applications for the selection test of LL.B Degree Programme for the Academic year 2016/2017 are available online. Applicants should submit the duly completed application forms online indicating where the Regional Centre which you are willing to study on or before 11th February 2017

<p>Colombo Regional Centre Ms. U.H.B.V.P Angammana Actg. Assistant Director OURC, Nawala, Nugegoda 011-2881380/281/360</p>	<p>Matara Regional Centre Mr. G. Dinesh Assistant Director OURC, Nupe, Matara. 041-2222943/041-2229782</p>
<p>Kandy Regional Centre Mr. Anushka Bandara Assistant Director OURC, Polgolla, Kandy 081-2494083/84 081-2494495/96/97</p>	<p>Anuradhapura Regional Centre Ms. Shayama Madugalla Assistant Director OURC, Jayanthi Mawatha, (Depot Area) Anuradhapura 025-2222871</p>
<p>Batticaloa Regional Centre Mr. A.D Kamalanathan Assistant Director OURC, No.23 New Road Batticaloa. 065-2222264</p>	<p>Jaffna Regional Centre Mr. K.Kanthavel Assistant Director OURC, Browns Road, Kokuvil Jaffna. 021-2223374</p>
<p>Kurunegala Regional Centre Mr. Mahinda Sakalasooriya Assistant Director OURC, Negombo Road Nissanka Mawatha Junction Malkaduwwa Kurunegala. 037-2223473</p>	<p>Badulla Regional Centre Ms. Hiranthi Galahitiyawa Assistant Director OURC, No. 179, Keppitipola Road, Badulla. 055-3012151/055-2228842</p>

For details:

N.B.You must produce your National Identity Card or any other acceptable document to prove your identity along with the Admission Form issued with the application to the Supervisor and invigilating staff of the Admission Test. Please make sure to get attestation for your signature on Admission Form by any of the specified authorities.