

The Open University of Sri Lanka Scholarship Scheme for Split- site PhD- Lecturers (Probationary) & Senior Lecturers

1. Key Features

This scholarship shall be awarded to an OUSL academic staff member to register for a full-time postgraduate degree leading to a PhD on split-site basis **only**. In areas of study where an MPhil is a requirement for entry to PhD programme, this scholarship may be utilized initially for MPhil and thereafter for PhD. However, the maximum duration/period of the scholarship shall not exceed **three** years.

The split-site scholarship will support postgraduate study at an overseas university, with a part of the study being undertaken in Sri Lanka for a minimum period of 12 months, not necessarily continuous, under the joint supervision of academics and scientists from both institutions. Registration for the postgraduate degree and the final qualification (PhD) obtained can be from either a Sri Lankan University/OUSL or a University abroad.

2. Eligibility

Scholarships shall be awarded to Lecturers (Probationary) of OUSL, who are entitled to full-time study leave, for at least **four** years of the total probationary period and Senior Lecturers who do not possess a PhD and have the total duration of the study comprising the balance of their study leave and/or the sabbatical leave. Applicant should not be more than 55 years at the time of application.

3. Value of Awards

The maximum value of each scholarship will be Rs. 6.0 million. Scholarship funds will be granted up to 3 years, disbursing 6.0 million over a period of three years. The total value of the scholarship shall be decided by the Selection Committee and may vary depending on the field of research study undertaken, tuition fees and other considerations. The university will inform each candidate of the maximum grant approved.

Each scholarship will cover approved registration, tuition and examination fees, and a personal living allowance (when overseas) at a rate approved by the OUSL, subject to the maximum value of the scholarship awarded.

4. Nomination and Selection Process

The OUSL will invite nominations each year from eligible members of staff. The number of scholarships to be granted each year shall be decided by the Senior Management Committee.

Each Head of Department, in consultation with the respective Dean of the Faculty shall nominate one staff member who satisfies the eligibility criteria. In case there is more than one nominee from a Department, a priority list shall be given. The nominee(s) shall submit a duly completed application form together with a proposal and a tentative placement.

Each Faculty shall select the nominees to be recommended to the Vice-Chancellor. The selection at Faculty level shall be done by a committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty and Heads of Departments, based on the Selection Criteria (Section 5) given below. Completion of CTHE for Lecturer (Probationary) or Induction Program for Senior Lecturers is an essential requirement for selection.

Each Faculty may recommend up to 02 nominees in order of priority to the Vice-Chancellor, together with the marks schedule of all nominees.

Once an academic staff member is selected from a department in a particular year, that department will not be able to nominate a further staff member within two consecutive years, unless otherwise there are no applicants from other departments.

University Selection Committee, comprising the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of Faculties shall select the candidate/s to be awarded scholarships in conformity with selection criteria given below (Section 5). SAR/Academic Establishments will serve as Secretary to the Selection Committee

5. Criteria for Selection

	Criteria	Maximum points
a.	Institutional development i. Instructional material development (incl. on-line component) (10) ii. Course delivery (incl. on-line) (5) iii. Contribution to Department, Faculty & University development (10)	25
b.	Research and publications (Abstract– 0.5, Chapter in a book*- 2, paper in refereed journal– 4, Paper in an indexed journal- 6, Books* reviewed by recognized experts– 4)	Unlimited
c.	Period of service since joining the academic staff (3 per year)	12
d.	Academic achievements during and after undergraduate studies (prizes, medals, scholarships excluding Mahapola) (2 per achievement)	10
e.	Contributions at National/International level (2 per achievement)	10
f.	Priority for selected training area based on departmental need (refer 5.1 below)	15
g.	Preparedness (refer 5.2 below)	20

(*Books: excluding OUSL course material)

5.1 Priority for selected training area, based on Departmental need – Allocation of points will be on the following basis:

Department

Without any PhD

up to - 10 pts

Allocation of points based on:

$$\frac{\text{No. of academic staff without PhD}}{\text{Total No. of academic staff in the Department}} \times 10$$

Staff with PhD due to retire within next 5 years – 05 pts

$$\frac{\text{No. of academic staff with PhD due to retire}}{\text{Total No. of academic staff}} \times 5$$

5.2 Extent of Preparedness – Allocation of points will be on the following basis:

Placement arranged*	up to	- 10 pts
Detailed research proposal**		- 05 pts
Post-graduate qualifications acquired after joining OUSL		- 05 pts

*in Sri Lanka – 05; overseas: 05

**reviewed by relevant Faculty Research Committee

Evaluation of suitable candidates will be done separately for Lecturer (Probationary) and Senior Lecturer.

6. Placement

Once a scholarship is awarded, it is the responsibility of the candidate to confirm the placement for the stipulated PhD programme, within a maximum period of 4 months. Failure by the candidate to secure a placement within 4 months of notification shall result in the transfer of the scholarship to the candidate first in the reserved list.

It is the candidate's responsibility to act to obtain all eligibility requirements relevant to securing placements and registration for a PhD program at a particular university.

7. Release of Funds

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to provide all documentation for release of funds.

The registration, tuition and other fees will be released according to the rules and regulations of the university the candidate is registered for the MPhil, initially/ Ph.D program.

The University will release the total living allowance to the candidate on commencement of his/her visit to the overseas university. The allowance paid as the monthly stipend will be decided by the OUSL.

For the foreign training component, the candidate may utilize the provisions of airfare and other approved allowances as per the guidelines of the University Grants Commission.

Funds will continue to be released upon the receipt of satisfactory six monthly progress report.

8. Progress Monitoring

The progress will be regularly monitored by the University on a half yearly basis.

However, an initial report in three months on the background of research, work plan etc. with attestation from Supervisor(s), Head of the Department, and Dean of the Faculty to the Vice-Chancellor, should be submitted for consideration of the Leave and Awards Committee.

If progress reports are not received or reported as unsatisfactory for two consecutive periods of six months, steps will be taken to stop the grant and recover all dues as per the Bond Agreement.

It is expected that scholarship holders will submit the thesis within 4 years. Upon completion, a copy of the PhD thesis and Certificate should be submitted to the University.

Any change of the area of study after the award of the scholarship was made, require justification by the PhD candidate, supported by the supervisors and ratification of the Department and Faculty.

9. Agreement and Bond

Each candidate shall sign a Bond Agreement with the University as per existing UGC circulars for the same. The Bond shall also include clauses to recover funds in case of misuse of funds and non-completion of PhD program.

10. Acknowledgments

Candidates shall acknowledge the financial assistance provided by the OUSL in all publications arising out of the research work carried out for PhD.