

## Study system

The Open University of Sri Lanka conducts the study programmes in distance mode with a strong emphasis on the multimedia instructional materials, printed materials and audio-visual aids. The Faculty of Engineering Technology is a pioneer in the world in delivering engineering courses in the distance mode.

The central element of self-study is the online class in the Moodle Learning Management System and the Study Guides produced by the University, which provide a series of carefully designed activities and self-assessment questions in order to develop critical and creative thinking abilities. In addition, day schools (face-to-face sessions), laboratory work, field work and seminars. For a group of 50 students, a course tutor will be assigned to conduct online activities and lab practice sessions and assessments. Pre-scheduled day schools are conducted by the academics of Faculty of Engineering Technology, Academic staff of CITES and professionals from the industry. These day schools provide the opportunity for the students to discuss the issues encountered in self-learning of a particular course. Facilities available for self-learning, such as library facilities, Audio-Visual Resource Centre, elementary computer labs, and more can be found in the section *Student Services*.

The online classrooms in the Learning Management System, play a vital role in the distance education programmes offered by the university. Each course offered in this study programme has an online classroom which provides access to every registered student over the web. Following are some of the benefits of an online classroom:

- access to the latest course information and learning resources
- prompt feedback from the course coordinators
- peer learning through active participation in group discussions happening in the classroom
- online submission of course work.

The OUSL facilitates lifelong learning. Therefore, the programmes offered by OUSL open up avenues for everyone, especially for employed persons. Thus the University makes every effort to schedule activities during the weekends and public holidays as far as possible. However, certain activities such as laboratory sessions and examinations may have to be scheduled during