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# UGC

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 01 Issue 01

January, 2008

University Grants Commission - Sri Lanka

Published Every Four Months

The enduring **light** of hope, the **blaze** of prosperity.....

And a **burning** wish for a peaceful 2008

## Hon. Minister of Higher Education

The University Education in Sri Lanka has experienced a significant growth since 1978 after the present Universities Act was promulgated. The number of universities has increased from 6 to 15 during 1978 and 2008 with equally a significant number of affiliated campuses and post-graduate institutions. The growth during the past two years (2006-2007) is the most noteworthy in terms of student enrollment and establishments of new institutions.



The University Grants Commission (UGC) is the main hub of the university system. The task of the UGC is not merely to distribute financial grants of the Government to various universities or monitor the activities and standards of them in addition to selecting students each year for university admissions. The UGC should provide leadership to the university system in order that the universities and the academics contribute positively and substantially to the country's development through research, publication, training and policy advice.

It is in the above backdrop that information sharing, institutional cooperation, joint ventures and networking between these universities and the UGC are important and crucial. There are various ways and means of achieving the objectives of cooperation or networking and a regular and an effective newsletter is one such mechanism.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly congratulate the launching of the *UGC Newsletter* and wish its success for the years to come. The Newsletter could not only pass information from the UGC to the universities but also the other way round strengthening cooperation and the unity of purpose of the university system.

*Professor. W. A. Wiswa Warnapala*

## Chairman, University Grants Commission

It is with great pleasure I wrote this message to the first issue of the UGC news letter published by the University Grants Commission.



Objective of printing a newsletter is to popularize the higher educational activities carried out by the UGC amongst its stakeholders and to educate the public. The newsletter is expected to reach the academic, administrative and non-academic staff of the universities, students, officials of the Ministry of Higher Education, Secretaries of other Ministries and public libraries. It is also expected to reach University Grants Commissions in the region.

In the era of communication, it is a timely initiative to print a newsletter to facilitate the process of the flow of information on higher education in Sri Lanka amongst its stakeholders. It will give an opportunity for the universities to generate awareness of its activities amongst other universities in the country and abroad. We all know that misinformation is one of the key factors responsible for the creation of uncertainty and mistrust. Thus the Commission always feels that transparency and maintenance of openness in all its activities would be the basic need to build up confidence between the public and the UGC. I am sure the editorial board would take note of these facts in the evolution of this newsletter in the future.

I wish the UGC newsletter every success for an uninterrupted continuation and thank the editorial committee for the compilation of the publication.

*Professor. Gamini Samaranayake*

## Vision



*"To develop a university system of the highest quality, appropriate to national needs and aspirations, in keeping with global trends"*

## Mission



*"To promote and sustain through resource allocation, a widely accessible University system that is accountable to the public and dedicated to the highest levels of learning, professional training and research, emphasizing relevance to the needs of the country, by facilitating, in partnership with other stakeholders of higher education, the diversification and the assurance of the quality of academic programmes, and the emergence of centres of excellence in teaching, research and service."*

## Editorial

*Professor. MFM Jiffry/Commission Member*

### PROMOTING UGC - STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION

The University Grants Commission is the Apex body of the University system and of higher education in Sri Lanka. Higher education is the most crucial area that needs to be developed and promoted in strengthening the human resources of a country. For this purpose the Ministry of Higher Education together with the Higher Education Institutes, the students, academics, the non academic staff and the general public have to play an effective role as its stakeholders. In addition, the Ministries of Education, Policy Planning, Finance and Vocational Training are expected to work jointly in collaboration with the UGC in this endeavour. However, very often at any Institution the tasks and activities carried out are not easily known to the public. For that matter, even the sister departments or the other units of a same organization is not aware of the activities carried out by one unit. Thus, it is mandatory that a viable and effective system of communication should be developed to disseminate information pertaining to the activities of a unit. This is the basis on which the UGC has launched an official News Letter

titled 'UGC Newsletter' to be published every four months to serve as a medium to educate all stakeholders on its activities.

Today you are reading its first issue with introductory messages from the Honourable Minister of Higher Education and Chairma/ UGC. The contents of this first issue are mainly focused on statistics related to Higher Education and some of the key events and activities carried out by the UGC in the recent past. In the future, we are expecting the wider participation of the stakeholders by responding to the contents published in this four monthly newsletter in the form of feedback and interaction. We believe that facilitating such a dialogue would certainly help in the build up of confidence amongst all concerned on the overall functions of the University Grants Commission and the University system. Furthermore, this newsletter is expected to play the crucial role of a messenger to encourage and promote a dialogue between the UGC and all the stakeholders. We wish that in future this publication would serve as a link document to bridge the gap between the academic institutes, UGC and the General Public at large.

### New Corporate Plan - 2008 - 2010

*Professor. MFM Jiffry/Commission Member*

The University Grants Commission has finalized its Corporate Plan for the period 2008-10. This Corporate plan was prepared with the full participation of all the officials of the Commission over a period of five months. One of the key features is the inclusion in the action plan the activities that could be realistically carried out within the intended period. Most importantly, the Commission did not incur any expenditure in preparing the corporate plan as it was done entirely by the members of the Commission and the executive staff.

The corporate plan has been prepared according to the guidelines given by the Auditor Generals Department. Accordingly, the contents include, Vision, Mission, the resources available, the

performance report for the previous three years, Organogram of the Institute, SWOT analysis, goals, objectives and strategies including action plan with budget together with time frame identifying the responsible units or officers. The whole corporate plan is structured on five goals. The fifth goal focuses on the role of the UGC in achieving goals 1 to 4 which addresses issues related to access; equity, quality & relevance; scholarship, research & service and accountability, financial viability & efficient management. It is expected to prepare the final document before the end of March, 2008 to be distributed to all the higher educational institutions in order to prepare their plans to suit the UGC corporate plan.



## Organization of University Grant Commission

Mr. Tissa Nandasena - Secretary/UGC

### Management Information System

#### Division(MIS)

Collection and maintenance of information on University System, providing relevant reports for decision making and Development & maintenance of the UGC Website.

#### HEIT Division

Determination and development of IT based requirements of the UGC and Coordination of IT based activities in universities.

#### University Admissions Department

Selection and allocation of studies to universities and coordinating relevant matters including selection of students for Mahapola Scholarships.

#### Infrastructure Development Division

Planning infrastructure Coordination and monitoring of infrastructure development activities in Universities and provide consultancy service.

#### Finance Department

Preparation of budgetary requirements, allocation of funds to HEIs, monitoring control of University expenditure and maintenance and administration of University Provident Funds and Pension Funds.

#### Supplies, Transport and Maintenance Division

Maintenance of buildings, premises, vehicles and coordinating all supplies including utilities

#### Planning Division

Preparation, implementation and progress reviewing of the Corporate Plan and coordinating activities relevant to corporate planning in universities.

#### Internal Audit Division

Carrying out internal audit on UGC administration and finance and advising and assisting Universities and HEIs in internal

#### International Co-operation Division

Handling of foreign funded projects coordinating matters pertaining to international relationships and UGC Research Fund

#### Human Resources Department

Matters pertaining to Recruitment, Promotions, Training, Salaries, Leave, Discipline of University Staff, cadre positions and Trade Union matters.

#### Student Affairs Division

All matters pertaining to welfare and grievances of university students.

#### Inter University Affairs Department(IUA)

Matters such as establishment of new Universities / Institutes/Departments introduction of new courses, recognition of new degrees and HEIs and coordination of Standing Committee activities

#### Legal and Documentation Division

Providing legal advice to the UGC and coordinating all legal matters.

#### Personnel Division

Personnel administration of the UGC staff



(FROM RIGHT)

MR. TISSA NANDASENA-SECRETARY/UGC, PROF. CARLO FONSEKA - MEMBER,  
 PROF. SK SITRAMPALAM - MEMBER, PROF. MTM JIFFRY - MEMBER,  
 PROF. G. SAMARANAYAKE - CHAIRMAN/UGC, PROF. ROHAN RAJAPAKSHE - MEMBER,  
 MR. WRVGG SAMARASIRI - REP. OF TREASURY

- **Professor Gunapala Nanayakkara** served the Commission as the Vice Chairman from March 2006 to January 2008. Prof. Nanayakkara has assumed duties as the Director of the PIM centre in Dubai.

- **Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama**, was a Member of the Commission from March 2006 to January 2, 2008. Prof. Hirimburegama was appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo.

- The Commission extends both members best wishes in their new endeavours and records its appreciation of the services rendered to the Commission.

- **Professor Sarath Abayakoon**/Dean, Faculty of Engineering of the University of Peradeniya has been appointed as the new member of the Commission in place of Prof. Hirimburegama.

## Admission to Universities in Sri Lanka

Mr. DP Athulathmudali-Head/Admissions Department

Admission of students to 14 National Universities and four Institutes set up under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 is being done by the University Grants Commission. Admission of students to courses offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka, Institute of Human Resource Advancement, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa is handled by the respective Universities/Institutes on the basis of an admission policy laid down from time to time by the UGC with the concurrence of the Government.

### 1. Present Admission Policy

(a) Admission to Arts based courses will be made on an all island merit basis.

(b) Admission to all courses other than Arts based courses will be made on dual criteria, namely, all island merit and merit on district basis.

(c) Up to 40% of the available places will be filled on all island merit basis and up to 55% of the available places in each course of study will be allocated to the 25 administrative districts on the ratio of the population of the district concerned to the total population of the country.

(d) A special allocation up to 5% of the

available places in each course of study will be allocated to the 16 educationally disadvantaged districts on the ratio of the population of each such district to total population of the 16 districts.

### 2. Admission of students for 2006/2007

**Academic Year.** - A total of 17630 students were selected for 62 courses of study for the 2006/2007 Academic year based on the results of the G.C.E.(A/L) examination held in May, 2006. The number of students selected to the four main courses of studies, i.e. Medicine, Engineering, Management and Arts from each district on merit basis and district basis are given the in - **Table-1**

From the table it could be noted that the most number of students selected under the merit quota for the courses study in Medicine, Engineering and Management are from the Colombo district. However, the most number of students selected to the courses of study in Arts are from the Kurunegala district.

### 3. Admission of Students for the 2007/2008

**Academic Year.** - It is proposed to admit 19650 students for 74 courses of study for 2007/2008 academic year based on the results of the G.C.E. (A/L) examination held in August 2007. Accordingly there is an increase of 2020 students compared to the student intake for the last academic year.

#### New degree programmes for the 2007/2008 Academic Year.

UNIVERSITY	COURSE OF STUDY	STUDENT INTAKE
1. University of Sri Jayawardenapura	(A). Operation & Technology Management	50
	(B). Business Information System	50
2. Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	(A). Computing & Information System	80
	(B). Sports Science & Management	35
	(C). Physical Education	35
3. University of Kelaniya	(A). Speech & Language Therapy	35
4. South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	(A). Information Technology for Mgt. Studies	60
5. Uwa Wellassa University of Sri Lanka	(A). Tea Technology a Value addition	50
	(B). Industrial Information Technology	50
	(C). Mineral Resources & Technology	50

**4. Special Admission** - A limited number of students are admitted to universities under the following special categories.

- (a) Students who have excelled in fields other than studies.
- (b) Blind and differently abled candidates.
- (c) Enlisted personnel of Armed Forces, Police

Service and Special Task Force.

- (d) Sri Lankans who have studied abroad and foreign students.
- (E) Teachers who have passed GAQ/GSQ (External) examination.

**5. Additional Intake** - A limited number of students



## Admission.....

Are admitted for selected subject areas for which adequate number of students may not be selected on

the basis of existing admission criteria. E.g. :- English, French, Japanese, History, Linguistics.

**TABLE - 1** **Number of students selected for the 2006/2007 Academic Year for the Courses of Study in Medicine, Engineering, Management & Arts.**

DISTRICT	MEDICINE		ENGINEERING		MANAGEMENT		ARTS	
	Merit basis	District basis	Merit basis	District basis	Merit basis	District basis	Merit basis	District basis
1. Colombo	173	73	141	73	310	166	178	31
2. Gampaha	29	64	20	64	83	145	214	-
3. Kalutara	19	33	18	33	41	75	194	-
4. Matale	01	14	04	14	04	32	103	-
5. Kandy	32	41	37	41	60	93	259	-
6. Nuwara-Eliya	-	27	-	28	03	62	59	16
07. Galle	37	31	45	32	136	71	376	-
08. Matara	28	24	50	24	48	55	240	29
09. Hambanthota	11	21	17	20	20	46	188	-
10. Jaffna	21	29	29	30	08	50	220	-
11. Kilinochchi	-	05	-	05	-	12	28	01
12. Mannar	-	05	-	05	-	08	22	03
13. Mullativu	-	06	-	06	-	14	14	17
14. Vavuniya	04	06	04	06	5	14	42	-
15. Trincomalee	02	14	-	14	02	33	57	-
16. Batticaloa	02	20	02	20	06	46	118	-
17. Ampara	04	23	01	23	05	52	174	-
18. Puttalam	04	27	-	27	18	62	114	-
19. Kurunegala	31	45	39	45	103	103	465	-
20. Anuradhapura	02	29	02	29	11	66	183	-
21. Polonnaruwa	01	14	02	14	05	32	50	-
22. Badulla	07	31	08	32	17	70	133	-
23. Moneragala	-	15	-	16	09	35	83	-
24. Kegalle	08	24	09	24	29	55	208	-
25. Rathnapura	17	39	07	40	68	90	304	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>4026</b>	<b>97</b>

## News - "දෙයට කිරුළ - 2008"

Mr. Nalaka Lankasena - Head/HEIT Division

Deyata Kirula was organized by the Ministry of Finance under the directions of HE the President as an exhibition to convey the developments and achievements of the country during the recent past and future directions of the Government. In collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, UGC took part at the Exhibition coordinating the Higher Education sector. The Universities participated were Moratuwa, Peradeniya, Colombo, Ruhuna, Sri Jayawardenapura, Uwa Wellassa, Rajarata together with Open University of Sri Lanka and Institute Bio Chemistry, Molecular Biology & Bio Technology and Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute.



We thank all Vice Chancellors, relevant officers of universities and students for their valuable contribution in making this event a success.

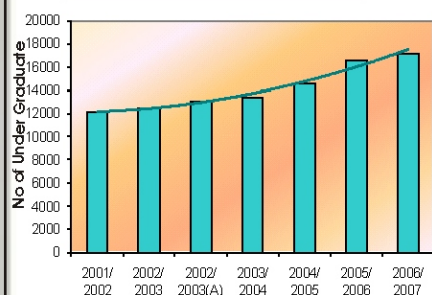
An educated man must realize that he has more obligations than privileges and more duties than rights.

Anonymous

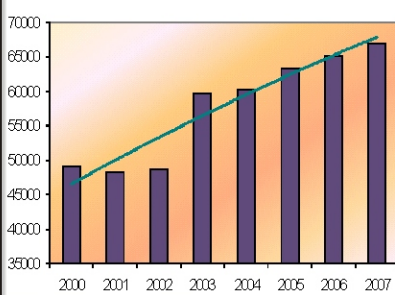
## Summary of Review

Ms. Damayanthi Panagoda - Head/MIS Division

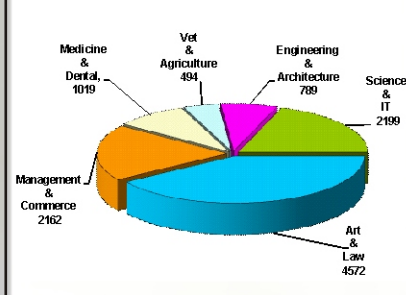
**Distribution of Undergraduate Admissions to Universities**  
Academic Years 2001/2002 - 2006/2007



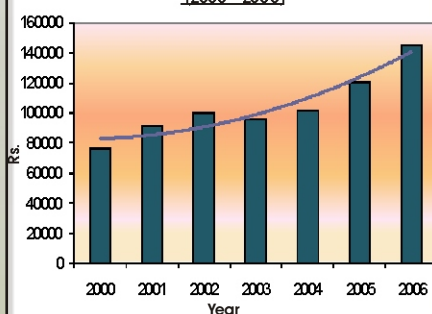
**Undergraduate Enrollment in Universities**  
(2000 - 2007)



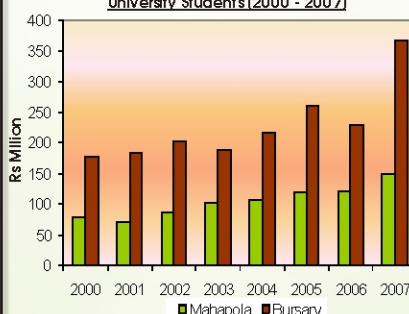
**Graduate Output by Major Fields of Study in 2006**



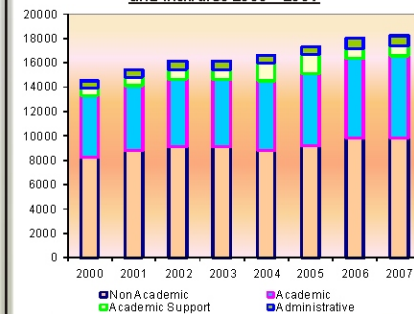
**Average Unit Recurrent Cost of Universities**  
(2000 - 2006)



**Government Grants for Financial Assistance to University Students (2000 - 2007)**



**Approved Total Cadre of the Universities and Institutes 2000 - 2007**



## Year 2007 of the UGC - FlashBack

Mr. Nalaka Lankasena - Head/HEI Division

### Third meeting of the Heads of University Grants Commissions /Equivalent Bodies of the SAARC Region

The Heads of UGCs and Equivalent Bodies of the SAARC region was formed in 2002. Accordingly the first meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the second was held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Third meeting was held in Sri Lanka during 26th to 27th January, 2007. At the meeting the major issues related to the Sri Lankan education sector were identified and inter-country cooperation in higher education was addressed.

### Mobilising the University System for Deyata-Kirula Exhibition 2006

The Presidential Secretariat has organized a national exhibition portraying the developments in the country especially projecting the future, in all sectors. The University System was adequately represented at this exhibition titled as 'Deyata Kirula'. Within a short period of time most of the Universities were mobilised to take part in this exhibition.

### Addressing of Special problems encountered on University Admissions for 2006

The University admissions for 2006 were seriously constrained by the discrepancies and the said incorrectness in marking

the GCE A/L Chemistry paper by the Examinations Department. The UGC was compelled to review its regular procedures adopted for admissions, since some students who were deemed to have been eligible for admission found that assurance was not valid on the basis of re-corrected results released subsequently. After having discussions with Universities, UGC was able to make arrangements to intake 1000 extra students in science based courses, including 199 for Medicine and 126 for Engineering.

### Creation of a New Medical Faculty

The UGC was faced with the challenge of finding a place for the medical course for 140 students. In addition 38 Muslim students who were assigned to the newly established Health Science Faculty of the Eastern University to follow the Medical Course also had to be provided suitable placements within the other medical schools. With the directions of HE the President the UGC established a new Medical Faculty at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to provide facilities for the above intake.

### Establishment of a New Faculty of Allied Health Sciences 2006

In the year 2003, the Medical Faculties were requested to introduce new



programmes in order to increase the student intake. To introduce new courses in Health Sciences, suitable curricular has to be prepared and the necessary funding for capacity building should be identified. The Peradeniya University had prematurely undertaken a project that needs multi-sectoral participation and commitment. However, with the enrolment of students identified to follow health sciences to the University an acute crisis was precipitated due to the refusal of the Medical Faculty to accommodate the additional students.

**Establishment of New Departments to meet the current needs in Agriculture Faculties** - Agricultural studies needs special attention as it is one of the prime areas that could contribute for the national development. There are several areas in the field of Agriculture that need to be strengthened to meet challenges faced by the Agricultural sector. In view of the above special needs the Faculties of Agriculture had identified the disciplines that should be developed

**Student Crisis at the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute 2006** - The Commission was faced with a long drawn problem of finding suitable proposals to reduce the tension that has been built up within this institution over the past few years. The problems related to this institution was separately dealt with, specially assisting them on certain urgent needs, thereby a smooth running of the undergraduate studies.

**Increasing Human Resources in the University System 2006** - There has not been any new recruitment for the administrative positions since 2004, especially at the Assistant Registrar level. There was an urgent need to fill the existing vacancies to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Universities. The recruitment process was expedited to increase the human resources within the University System during the last year.

**Implementation of the new Salary structure proposed by the National Salaries and Cadre Commission** - The UGC has to prepare within a short period of time, the restructured scheme with almost caution to honour the governments pledge.

**Problems encountered in the Universities in the North and East** - Amidst the current problems experienced within the North and East regions of the country, the Universities in these regions faced special problems. Some of these were lack of staff, complaints of insecurity by the students enrolled from other parts of the country, especially belonging to the Sinhala and Muslim communities are the major issues. A series of activities

were developed to continue monitoring, reporting and reviewing process to support and sustain the activities of these Universities.

**The Establishment of a Research Promotion Cell at the UGC for University Industry Community Interaction** - One of the primary objectives of the Universities is to conduct research and develop new knowledge especially on community-industry based problems, Although a special unit was set up within the UGC in 2005 to address issues related to research, there has not been any further development except for a workshop conducted in early 2006. Thus during the year 2007 certain activities related to research promotion were streamlined and enhanced motivating the academic staff to carry out research.

**Revival of the International Co-operation Division of the UGC** - The problems related to the lack of opportunities to undertake post-graduate studies are numerous. As a consequence there is a significant decline in the available qualified staff at senior lecturer levels, especially in the fields of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management studies. The UGC has decided in principle to establish with the UGC in India and initiate a Scholarship scheme for probationary/Senior Lecturers in the fields of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management studies.

Other major activities undertaken during the year 2007 .....

1. Contribution to the establishment of the South Asian University in New Delhi, India.
2. Exploring the possibilities of establishing linkages with major Universities in the SAARC region
3. Re-organization of the project for the construction of the Maldives Library.
4. Preparation of a scheme to increase the intake of students up to 25,000 per year by 2010.
5. Organizing staff development programmes for executive staff and junior lecturers
6. Revisit the Corporate plan of the UGC and the Universities
7. Visiting some of the HEIs on fact finding exercise
8. Resolving some of the major internal problems of the HEIs

Detailed report is available on  
[www.ugc.ac.lk/ugcnet.ac.lk](http://www.ugc.ac.lk/ugcnet.ac.lk)

## How to Contact UGC Newsletter

**Editorial Committee**

Prof. MTM Jiffry

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the Vehicles  
of Ideas"*

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## News: Long Service Awards

*Ms. Priyanthi Daluwatte - SAS*



The New Year celebrations for 2008 at the UGC was held under the patronage of Hon. Minister of Higher Education Prof. Viswa Warnapala on 1st January 2008. A total of 26 employees received awards for long service. 20 employees have completed 25 years of service. While 5

employees had covered 30 years of service. Mr. BJPN Rodrigo, (Deputy Accountant), received an award for completing 40 years of service.



## How to Contact Our Universities, Postgraduate Institutes, Institutes

### Universities:

University of Colombo - <http://www.cmb.ac.lk>  
 University of Peradeniya - <http://www.pdn.ac.lk>  
 University of Sri Jayawardenapura - <http://www.sjp.ac.lk>  
 University of Kelaniya - <http://www.kln.ac.lk>  
 University of Moratuwa - <http://www.mrt.ac.lk>  
 University of Jaffna - <http://www.jfn.ac.lk>  
 University of Ruhuna - <http://www.ruh.ac.lk>  
 Eastern University, Sri Lanka - <http://www.esn.ac.lk>  
 South Eastern University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.seu.ac.lk>  
 Rajarata University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.rjt.ac.lk>  
 Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.sab.ac.lk>  
 Wayamba University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.wyb.ac.lk>  
 Open University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.ou.ac.lk>  
 Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka - <http://www.uwu.ac.lk>  
 University of the Visual & Performing Arts - <http://www.vpa.ac.lk>

### Postgraduate Institutes:

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture - <http://www.pgia.ac.lk>

Postgraduate Institute of Management - <http://www.pim.lk>

Postgraduate Institute of Medicine -

<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/Institutes/pgim>

Postgraduate Institute of Palli & Buddhist Studies -

<http://pgipbs.net>

Postgraduate Institute of Science - <http://www.pgis.lk>

### Institutes:

Institute of Human Resource Advancement -

<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/institutes/iwe/index.htm>

Institute of Indigenous Medicine - <http://www.cmb.ac.lk/iim>

University of Colombo School of Computing -

<http://www.ucsc.cmb.ac.lk>

Institute of Gampaha Wickramarachchi -

<http://www.kln.ac.lk/wickramarachchi/index.htm>

National Institute of Library & Information Science -

<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/institutes/nilis>

Institute of Technology - <http://www.mrt.ac.lk/itum>

Institute of Bio Chemistry Molecular Biology & Biotechnology -

<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/lbmbb>

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SRI LANKA