



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Work conducted by the University Grants Commission from 1st January 2017 to 31st Dec 2017

1. Expansion of access to higher education; creation of new undergraduate seats

1.1. *Establishment of two new medical faculties*

Year 2017 will go down in history as the year that saw the arrival of two medical faculties in the same year, one at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and the other at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

1.2. *Total increase in the of number of students during the period – 1180*

1.3.

- Medicine - 160
- Engineering - 50
- Management and Commerce – 285
- Technology – 225
- Science - 200
- Humanities and Social Sciences – 100
- Information Technology - 80
- Agriculture - 45
- Law – 20
- Paramedical courses – 05
- Siddha Medicine – 10

1.4. *New Faculties, Departments and Degree Programmes*

1.4.1. Seven (7) new faculties were approved

No	Name of the Faculty	University
1.	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	University of Ruhuna
2.	Faculty of Medicine	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
3.	Faculty of Technology	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
4.	Faculty of Technology	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
5.	Faculty of Technology	Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
6.	Faculty of Technological Studies	Uva Wellassa University Of Sri Lanka
7.	Faculty of Nursing	University of Colombo

1.4.2. *Thirty nine (39) new Departments were approved*

- University of Colombo - 01
- University of Peradeniya - 02
- University of Sri Jayewardenepura - 05
- University of Kelaniya - 03

- University of Jaffna - 03
- University of Ruhuna - 03
- South Eastern University of Sri Lanka - 02
- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka - 09
- Wayamba University of Sri Lanka - 05
- Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka - 02
- Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka - 02
- The Open University of Sri Lanka - 02

1.4.3. *One (01) new course of study was approved: 01*

- Financial Engineering- University of Kelaniya

1.4.4. *Thirty three (33) new Degree Programmes that included 18 undergraduate (UG) and 15 Postgraduate(PG) programmes were approved*

- University of Colombo (UG-1, PG-4)
- University of Peradeniya (UG-2, PG-1)
- University of Kelaniya(UG-1)
- University of Moratuwa(PG-2)
- University of Ruhuna(UG-1)
- Eastern University, Sri Lanka (UG-2)
- South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (PG-1)
- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (UG-3)
- Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (UG-3)
- Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (UG-2)
- The Open University of Sri Lanka (UG-3, PG-2)
- University of Colombo School of Computing (PG -5)

2. Admission process was simplified, modernized and regulated

- a. Arrangements were made to link UGC software with data available at the Election Commission through which extracts of the electoral registry were used to determine the relevant district for university admissions.
- b. Accordingly, students are no longer required to obtain letters from the Department of Elections for submission along with their applications. The application process is thus less tedious.
- c. This enhanced the efficiency and the transparency of the university admissions process.
- d. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is arranged with the Department of Registration of Persons to verify the National Identity of the students who are applying for university admission to improve the efficiency and the transparency of the university admissions.

3. Addressed the national demand to reduce the time interval between release of G.C.E. Advanced Level (A/L) Examination results and admission of students to state universities

The issue arises from the fact that under the current system, when students are offered a degree programme out of their preferences based on their merit, they do not register and several rounds of offers are then given by UGC for students to choose. This time-consuming method delays commencement of universities.

To address this issue the following steps were taken which reduced the gap between release of GCE A/L results and release of the list of students admitted to the different courses in all universities by 5 months.

- a. A new mechanism was introduced to directly identify the number of vacancies in the universities soon after the deadline given for registration to courses of study of universities.
- b. New arrangements were made to speed up filling of vacancies in those courses of study of universities that have shown considerable number of vacancies, after obtaining concurrence from Vice-Chancellors and Deans of relevant universities.
- c. A new mechanism was introduced which enabled students who are satisfied with the selected course of study of the university they were offered to remove all the higher preferred courses of study of universities which they do not want to be considered during filling of vacancies., from the list they submitted during the application.
- d. Accordingly, *students were given the opportunity to remain in their preferred course of study of the university* without getting promoted to their higher preferences. This step reduced the non-registration to courses of study where students lack interest and helped to fill an increased number of vacancies during the filling of vacancies. This has resulted in the reduction of vacancies by more than seventy percent (70%) at the time of finalizing the intake for the Academic Year 2016/2017 when compared with Academic Year 2015/2016.
- e. University Grants Commission can now complete registration of students to universities before the universities commence their academic sessions and send the final lists of registered students to universities to commence academic activities.

4. New steps that were proposed and introduced in state universities to enhance the relevancy of university education to the job market to address the issue of Skills Mismatch

- a. Universities were encouraged to introduce locally and globally relevant new and innovative degree programmes and UGC will be providing funding.
- b. Steps have commenced to restructure the existing Humanities and Social Sciences degree programmes by introducing new knowledge and skills to make them relevant to the present needs of the country.

- c. A new window of opportunity was created for students who could not enter into the state universities with the present admission criteria by giving a new mandate to universities to introduce 3 year job oriented employable degrees targeted at the requirements of the job market to be delivered by recognized non-state Higher Education Institutes on a fee paying basis. This was highlighted in the budget speech 2018.
- d. Commenced a Tracer study with UNESCO funding to analyze graduate employability to obtain objective evidence with active participation of public and private sector employers.

5. Strengthened the Quality and Capacity of the University Academia

- a. University system were incentivized on performance on **Research** output through performance based international index and **Service** through retaining and sharing the benefits (generated income) for University development and to the benefit of employees and students.
- b. Created a mechanism at UGC to quantify the value of degree programmes offered by state universities.

6. Strengthening and regularizing the Quality Assurance Processes in State and Non State university system

- a. UGC and Ministry of Higher Education and Highways under the direction of the Hon. Minister of Higher education and Highways and State Minister of Higher Education, prepared a new draft legislation to establish a new independent Quality Assurance and Accreditation Authority for State and Non-State Higher Education.
- b. This will be submitted to the Cabinet shortly and will transform and enhance the quality assurance and accreditation systems of Sri Lankan higher education.
- c. A Directorate of Quality Assurance was established at the UGC for continuous quality assurance processes for state universities and 42 QA reviews in Humanities and Social Sciences degree programmes were completed during 2017.

7. Enhancing the University –Industry Links

Introduced “Upadhidari Vivasayaka Udanaya” (UVU) Entrepreneurship development programme for university graduates in collaboration with National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) to provide seed money for successful business plans.

8. Addressed Gender Equity and Equality, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Steps undertaken to create safe and conducive environment for higher learning and to curtail ragging in universities

- a. For the first time, Parents/guardians of students and the students at registration to state universities were mandated to sign an affidavit to the effect that they understand the consequence of ragging and sexual and gender based violence during their stay in the university. Having a conviction under the Ragging act of 1998 would result in

expulsion from the University and liability for a minimum of 7 years of rigorous imprisonment.

- b. Established Grievance Redress Mechanisms for ragging, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as follows:
 - Online portal (www.ugc.ac.lk/rag)
 - 24/7 Call Centre (0112 123700)
 - Specific email IDs (ragginghelp@ugc.ac.lk and helpme@ugc.ac.lk)
 - Developed prototype with ICTA for “Emergency Safety Mobile App”. This will be piloted shortly.
 - Prepared a brochure on “Information for students on ragging and gender based violence in university” and a video animation on how to access ragging complaints portal developed to circulate to new entrants.
 - Established databases for Ragging and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)
 - Developed an online SGBV portal.
 - As mentioned in Section (a) above, anti-ragging affidavits signed by students and parents will now be used as confirmatory evidence of their awareness of the consequence of violence and ragging in universities as per Ragging Act 1998 to enable all students to be aware of this new mandatory rule.
- c. Established a high powered multi-sectoral “Taskforce to Prevent and Eliminate Ragging in the Universities” including police and representatives of the Attorney General’s Department.
- d. Initiated research on incidence and prevalence on ragging and SGBV in the university system to strategize interventions to combat ragging and SGBV.
- e. Initiated an annual inter university gender quality promotion programme titled “Journey towards Gender Equity/Equality: An Inter University Festival” for university students and staff.
- f. Established a network of gender centers in the university system to implement policies on gender and to address ragging and SGBV.
- g. Initiated a research conference to study the state of gender in Higher Education.

9. **Created a system to establish English Language Teaching Departments (ELTDs) in Universities to enhance the speaking, writing and communication ability of graduates and to empower and support the capacity building of English language teachers**
10. **Created a closer dialog with Student Unions, Academic Staff Unions and Non Academic Trade Unions with concurrence of Ministry of Higher Education and Highways**
11. **Funded to create an on-line English and IT Learning Module accessible to all selected students prior to enrolment to universities, with a facility to obtain a certificate of successful completion of the module on line.**
12. **Infrastructure development in Universities**
 - Pre-clinical building, Faculty of Medicine University of Colombo Rs.6,604 Mn
 - Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo Rs.2,087 Mn
 - Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Rs.2,640 Mn
 - Lecture Theatre complex, Faculty of Science University of Kelaniya Rs.500 Mn
 - Department of Material Science & Engineering Building University of Moratuwa Rs.439 Mn
 - Building for faculty of Medicine University of Jaffna Rs. 700 Mn
 - Faculty of Technology Building University of Jaffna Rs.525 Mn
 - 12 Storied Building for the Faculty of Medicine University of Ruhuna Rs.1,179 Mn
 - Faculty of Medicine Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Rs.3,229.4 Mn
 - Postgraduate Institute of Medicine Building Rs.2,500 Mn
 - Auditorium for the Trincomalee Campus Rs.784.8 Mn
 - Staff Housing scheme Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Rs. 414.7 Mn
 - Library building for Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Rs. 371.8 Mn
 - Building Complex for Department of Technology South eastern University of Sri Lanka Rs.451 Mn
 - Building Complex for University of Visual Performing Arts Rs.775 Mn
 - Building Complex for Department of Technology University of Ruhuna Rs.692 Mn
 - Rs.12, 857 Mn has been invested on construction of four storied 100 rooms for 58 hostels in the university system to accommodate 23,200 students.

University Grants Commission

02.02.2018