



**University of Peradeniya**  
**Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture**  
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16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Assistant Registrar  
Academic and Council  
University of Peradeniya

Dear Assistant Registrar,

**Subject: Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and By-laws of PhD and MPhil Programmes - PGIA**

I am submitting the following documents for the ADPC for consideration:

1. Programme Learning Outcomes of Doctor of Philosophy – PhD (SLQF Level 12) and Master of Philosophy – MPhil (SLQF Level 11)
2. By-laws of Doctor of Philosophy – PhD (SLQF Level 12) and Master of Philosophy – MPhil (SLQF Level 11)

These documents were endorsed by the 264<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Committee held on 27.02.2025 and subsequently recommended at the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Management on 28.03.2025. These documents were also recommended to table at the Senate by the 195<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate ADPC meeting held on 28.05.2025.

Prior to the submission, the documents were reviewed by Prof. R.M.C.P. Rajapakshe and Dr. Sampath Lokugalappaththi as two ADPC members. All relevant suggestions made by the two reviewers have been incorporated in to the two documents.

I request that these documents be tabled at the Senate for observations and recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara  
Director  
Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture  
University of Peradeniya

Professor D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara  
Director / PGIA



# University of Peradeniya

## Revisions to Study Programmes/Courses submitted to the ADPC and Senate for approval (Basic Information required in the cover page)

<b>1 Proposed/revised Degree Programme</b>													
1.1	Name of Degree programmes	Doctor of Philosophy											
1.2	Abbreviated qualification	PhD											
1.3	SLQF Level	12											
1.4	Nature of the proposal (tick as appropriate)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>A new study programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Revision of the entire study programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Addition/elimination one or more courses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Revision of one/more courses (non change in the structure of the programme)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td><b>Reporting the current practices in organized form</b></td> </tr> </table>		1	A new study programme	2	Revision of the entire study programme	3	Addition/elimination one or more courses	4	Revision of one/more courses (non change in the structure of the programme)	5	<b>Reporting the current practices in organized form</b>
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<b>2 Programme Offering Entity</b>													
2.1	<del>Faculty/</del> Postgraduate Institute/ <del>CDCE</del>	Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture											
2.2	<del>Department/s delivering the programme/relevant courses/</del> Board of study	Boards of Study in Agricultural Biology, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Extension, Animal Science, Biostatistics, Business Administration, Crop Science, Food Science and Technology, Plant Protection, Soil Science											
3	<b>Justification</b>	See attached document											
4	<b>Contact information to seek clarifications (preferably a mobile phone number):</b>	071 493 3591											
<p><b>Note: Ensure the availability of following information in the proposal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The complete structure of the programme</li> <li>2. The original structure of the study programme, if the programme structure is revised</li> <li>3. Please note that the relevant interest is expressed in the annual action plan of the Faculty/ Institute</li> </ol>													

Date of Approval by the 264<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Committee:  
Date of Approval by the 285<sup>th</sup> Board of Management:

14.03.2025  
28.03.2025

Deputy Registrar  
Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture

Date: 23.05.2025

## **1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) (SLQF LEVEL 12) DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT THE POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE (PGIA), UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduates play a critical role in national and global development through research, policy formulation, and technological innovation. Their work aligns with national development priorities and contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PhD holders serve as leaders and subject-matter experts across universities, research institutions, industry, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, both locally and internationally.

Since its establishment in 1975, the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) has been committed to academic excellence, research innovation, and capacity building, supporting the broader mission of the University of Peradeniya. The PhD programmes reinforce PGIA's leadership in postgraduate agricultural education by promoting international collaboration, knowledge generation, and evidence-based policy development.

The PhD programmes are designed to develop highly skilled researchers, professionals, and practitioners capable of critically addressing complex global challenges in agriculture and related sectors. These programmes emphasize the generation of original knowledge through rigorous research, while also fostering professional, managerial, and technological competencies essential for leadership and innovation.

A hallmark of the PGIA PhD programme is its encouragement of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, integrating diverse fields such as agriculture, environmental science, life sciences, engineering, management, and social sciences. This integrative approach is fundamental to addressing contemporary issues in sustainable agriculture and advancing progress towards the SDGs and beyond.

As the highest academic qualification recognized under the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) Level 12, the PhD programme requires candidates to conduct independent, original research under the supervision of qualified academic staff. The programme culminates in the submission of a thesis and the publication of key findings in at least two peer-reviewed scientific journals, demonstrating the candidate's scholarly contribution to their field.

Although the programme is primarily research-based, candidates may be required to follow preparatory or value-added coursework, such as research methodology, statistics, scientific writing, or other relevant subjects, as recommended by their Supervisors or Board of Study. These non-credit courses are designed to enhance the candidate's research competencies and academic rigor.

PhD programmes are coordinated through PGIA's 11 Boards of Study, representing core disciplines including Agricultural Biology, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Animal Science, Biostatistics, Business Administration, Crop Science, Food

Science and Technology, Plant Protection, and Soil Science. Each Board is responsible for overseeing research in its domain and appointing qualified Supervisors. All supervisory appointments are subject to the approval of the PGIA Board of Management, the Senate, and the Council of the University of Peradeniya.

Through its PhD programmes, PGIA remains at the forefront of advancing agricultural knowledge, innovation, and leadership, contributing meaningfully to national development and global sustainability.

## 2. ATTRIBUTES OF QUALIFICATION HOLDERS

Graduates of the PhD programme in Agriculture and related fields at the PGIA exemplify a distinct set of attributes and values that define their academic and professional identity.

Ph.D. graduates are advanced critical thinkers with the capacity to identify, analyze, contextualize, and synthesize complex knowledge. They approach challenges with a holistic perspective, make evidence-based decisions, and pursue innovative solutions with intellectual openness. They also possess strong research skills relevant to their discipline, including numerical analysis, laboratory techniques, and field methodologies. They are capable of working both independently and as part of a team, fostering collaboration, resolving conflicts constructively, and contributing to a culture of mutual respect and cooperation.

These graduates conduct high-quality, original research that contributes meaningfully to the global body of knowledge and meets international scholarly standards. They are curious, goal-oriented, and self-motivated, with a strong commitment to lifelong learning and continuous improvement. Aware of the practical relevance of their research and limitations, they understand the potential for intellectual property development, commercialization, and entrepreneurial innovation.

Demonstrating personal, professional, and intellectual integrity, graduates adhere to the highest ethical standards in research and scholarship. They value and respect human and cultural diversity, recognizing the importance of inclusivity and cultural sensitivity. As responsible global citizens, they are committed to accountability, social responsibility, and the preservation of natural ecosystems Values.

Equipped with advanced communication skills and digital literacy, Ph.D. graduates effectively disseminate their research to diverse audiences. They are articulate, persuasive, and empathetic communicators, capable of presenting complex ideas clearly and engagingly, both within their academic disciplines and in broader community and policy contexts.

### **3. PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOS) OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

A graduate completing the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya should be able to:

1. Develop and consolidate advanced expertise in scientific theories and research methodologies in chosen research areas in agriculture and related fields, integrating multidimensional perspectives to address real world complex challenges.
2. Conceptualize, design, conduct, and lead original research using advanced analytical techniques that identify knowledge gaps, generate new knowledge, and provide innovative solutions to critical issues in agriculture and related fields.
3. Apply statistical and analytical techniques and critical thinking to evaluate/interpret scientific data critically and make evidence-based judgments to develop effective solutions for complex challenges in agriculture and related fields.
4. Communicate research findings effectively through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and transfer knowledge to both specialist and non-specialist stakeholders.
5. Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, time management, and resilience to lead multidisciplinary research in agriculture and related fields across diverse environments.
6. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning by continuously updating knowledge and skills to effectively respond to emerging trends and challenges in agricultural and related research fields.
7. Maintain intellectual independence, academic and ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in conduct of research and professional practices.
8. Recommend research findings to develop strategies, policies, advanced studies, education, and/or research-to-market strategies and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and related fields

#### 4. MAPPING

##### 4.1 The Alignment of PLOs with the level descriptors of SLQF

SLQF Level Descriptors of the relevant level	PLOs of the Programme							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Subject / Theoretical Knowledge	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2. Practical Knowledge and Application	√	√	√	√	√	√		
3. Communication				√	√	√	√	√
4. Teamwork and Leadership				√	√	√	√	√
5. Creativity and Problem Solving	√	√	√	√	√			√
6. Managerial and Entrepreneurship		√	√		√	√		√
7. Information Usage and Management	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
8. Networking and Social Skills			√	√	√	√	√	√
9. Adaptability and Flexibility	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
10. Attitudes, Values and Professionalism				√	√	√	√	√
11. Vision for Life			√		√	√	√	√
12. Updating Self / Lifelong Learning	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

##### 4.2 The Alignment of the PLOs with the Graduate Profile of University of Peradeniya

With the attributes of the University Graduate Profile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1. The graduate is a <u>Holistic Thinker</u> and <u>Problem Solver</u> capable of making evidence-based decisions.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2. The graduate is a <u>Scholar</u> who learns with the passion for becoming a subject specialist competent in theory and practice.	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
3. The graduate is an outcome-oriented, group-spirited <u>Leader</u> who is able to delegate and corporate. He/she is an independent, influential <u>Collaborator</u> capable of facilitating conflict resolution.			√	√	√	√		√
4. The graduate is a <u>Role Model</u> who exemplifies competent, ethical and professional practices within the relevant domain of expertise.	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
5. The graduate is a <u>Researcher</u> who pursues knowledge competently and philosophically and seeks solutions with an open mind.	√	√	√		√			

6. The graduate is an <u>Entrepreneur and Manager</u> , who initiates, innovates, negotiates, and is capable of networking to maximize opportunities mobilizing and allocating resources.			√	√	√	√		√
7. The graduate is a <u>Digitally Literate Individual</u> who is skillful, ICT and media literate.	√	√	√	√				√
8. The graduate is a <u>Lifelong Learner</u> who is curious, goal-oriented, achievement-focused and self-directed.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
9. The graduate is a <u>Socially Intelligent and Sensitive Human Being</u> who is just, culturally aware, altruistic and pluralistic and inclusive. He/she respects nature.					√	√	√	√
10. The graduate is an <u>Effective Communicator</u> who is language proficient, persuasive and empathetic.				√	√	√	√	
11. The graduate is a <u>Responsible Citizen</u> who is reliable and accountable	√		√	√		√	√	√

#### 4.3 The Alignment of the PLOs with the Graduate Profile of Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture

With the attributes of the University Graduate Profile		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1. The graduate is a <u>Holistic Thinker</u> and <u>Problem Solver</u> capable of making evidence-based decisions.	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
	2. The graduate is a <u>Scholar</u> who learns with the passion for becoming a subject specialist competent in theory and practice.	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
	3. The graduate is an outcome-oriented, group-spirited <u>Leader</u> who is capable of delegating and corporate		√	√	√	√	√		√
	4. The graduate is a <u>Role Model</u> who exemplifies competent, ethical and professional practices within the relevant domain of expertise.					√	√	√	√
	5. The graduate is a <u>Researcher</u> who pursues knowledge competently and philosophically and seeks solutions with an open mind.	√	√	√		√			
	6. The graduate is an <u>Entrepreneur and Manager</u> , who initiates, innovates, negotiates, and is capable of networking			√	√	√	√		√

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7. The graduate is a <u>Digitally Literate Individual</u> who is skillful, ICT and media literate.	√		√	√				√
8. The graduate is a <u>Lifelong Learner</u> who is curious, goal-oriented, achievement-focused and self-directed.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
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10. The graduate is an <u>Effective Communicator</u> who is language proficient, persuasive and empathetic.				√	√	√	√	
11. The graduate is a <u>Responsible Citizen</u> who is reliable and accountable	√		√	√		√	√	√

## 5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENTS

See By-Laws of MPhil and PhD Programmes

## 6. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The candidate is required to engage in full-time research for a minimum of three years from the date of registration, under the supervision of a Supervisory team headed by the Principle Supervisor recommended by the relevant Board of Study and approved by the Board of Management, the Senate, and the Council of the University. Upon completion, the candidate must submit a thesis based on the research outlined in the proposal approved by the Board of Study, for the thesis defence examination.

In addition, the candidate must complete the required coursework for the PhD programme at the earliest opportunity, as recommended by the Board of Study. Coursework may be undertaken at any recognized postgraduate institute in Sri Lanka or at a recognized higher education institution abroad.

<b>Semester</b>	Semester I to VI (Minimum of VI semesters)
<b>Course Code</b>	PGIA 8100
<b>Course Name</b>	Thesis/Dissertation
<b>Credit Value</b>	90 (9,000 notional hours)
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	Registration and course work requirements stipulated in the By-laws
<b>Core/Optional</b>	Core

Hourly Breakdown	Lectures (Hrs)	Tutorial (Hrs)	Practical Class (Hrs)	Research (hrs)		Independent Learning & Assessments (hrs)
	--	--	--	9,000		

### Programme Aim

This programme equips students with advanced knowledge and research skills to address contemporary real world challenges in chosen areas in agriculture and related fields through the 11 Boards of Study. It fosters innovation by integrating scientific inquiry, critical thinking, analytical techniques, and practical experience, enabling students to generate new knowledge, develop technologies, and contribute novel concepts as independent professional researchers. The programme also emphasizes effective communication of research findings to academic communities, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and the broader public, while upholding academic rigor and ethical integrity in all aspects of professional practice.

### Programme Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this PhD programme, students will be able to:

- Develop and consolidate advanced expertise in scientific theories and research methodologies in chosen research areas in agriculture and related fields, integrating multidimensional perspectives to address real world complex challenges.
- Conceptualize, design, conduct, and lead original research using advanced analytical techniques that identify knowledge gaps, generate new knowledge, and provide innovative solutions to critical issues in agriculture and related fields.
- Apply statistical and analytical techniques and critical thinking to evaluate/interpret scientific data critically and make evidence-based judgments to develop effective solutions for complex challenges in agriculture and related fields.
- Communicate research findings effectively through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and transfer knowledge to both specialist and non-specialist stakeholders.
- Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, time management, and resilience to lead multidisciplinary research in agriculture and related fields across diverse environments.
- Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning by continuously updating knowledge and skills to effectively respond to emerging trends and challenges in agricultural and related research fields.
- Maintain intellectual independence, academic and ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in conduct of research and professional practices.

- Recommend research findings to develop strategies, policies, advanced studies, education, and/or research-to-market strategies and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and related fields.

**Programme Content:**

The research programme is designed to systematically guide students through the process of developing and executing independent, high-quality research in agriculture and related fields. The key components of the programme include:

Completion of Boards of Study prescribed coursework to strengthen theoretical foundations, research methodology, and analytical skills aligned with the chosen field of study; Formulation of a concept note that defines the research problem, hypothesis, or research questions, demonstrating clarity of purpose and relevance to disciplinary or interdisciplinary priorities; Development of a comprehensive research proposal, including a scholarly review of literature, identification of research gaps, and justification of the research design, aligned with ethical and academic standards; Conceptualizing the overall research framework and designing a rigorous, feasible, and ethically sound research project to address identified knowledge gaps; Planning and executing the research project, including the collection or generation of primary and/or secondary data, ensuring methodological validity and relevance to the stated objectives; Positioning the research questions within the context of existing discipline-specific and, where appropriate, interdisciplinary or cross-sectoral knowledge frameworks; Applying appropriate analytical tools to process and critically interpret data, identify patterns, trends, and themes, and generate new knowledge that advances scientific understanding or practical applications; Preparation and submission of biannual progress reports and oral presentations to the relevant Board of Study or Supervisory Committee for review and feedback; Writing and submitting scientific publications, extended abstracts, and policy briefs, and preparing presentations for national and international conferences and stakeholder forums; Compilation, writing, and formatting of a thesis that meets institutional guidelines, incorporating revisions based on supervisor and examiner feedback, and successful defence of the research before an academic panel.

**Teaching /Learning Methods:**

Guided Self Learnings (critically reviewing the literature and methodologies, conceptualizing and designing experiments, executing experiments, collecting data, analysing and critically evaluating results, preparing the thesis, abstract, poster, manuscripts etc.); Updating research notebook or e-portfolio; Problem Based Learning; Web Based Learning; Seminar participation; Discussions with supervisory committee; Participation in journal clubs; Preparation of progress reports and their presentations; Conduct undergraduate lectures.

**Forms of Evidence for Learning Outcomes:**

SLQF Domain	Programme Learning Outcome (PLO)	Assessment Criteria / Methods

Subject/Discipline Knowledge & Understanding	1	Literature reviews, research concept note, conceptual frameworks, research proposal defence, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Practical Knowledge & Application	2	Research proposal, conduct of research, progress reviews, thesis submission, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Critical Thinking, Analysis & Problem Solving	3	Data analysis, results and discussion sections in the thesis, publications, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Communication	4	Journal articles, public presentation, conference presentations, outreach reports, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Teamwork & Leadership	5	Progress reports, supervisor feedback
Lifelong Learning	6	Participation in workshops, conferences, training and reflection log reports
Ethical & Professional Conduct	7	Ethical approval, supervisor assessment, conduct records
Vision for Innovation / Career Development	8	Policy briefs, innovation proposals, knowledge transfer activities

**Programme Assessment Strategy:**

Continuous Assessment	Final Assessment		
	100 %		
<b>Details:</b>	<b>Theory (%)</b>	<b>Practical (%)</b>	<b>Other (%)</b>
	--	--	<p>Evaluation by three external examiners who are recommended by the Board of Management and the Senate, and approved by the Council. Evaluation is based on,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk evaluation of thesis</li> <li>• Evaluation of public presentation</li> <li>• Defence <i>viva voce</i> examination</li> </ul> <p>After completing the <i>viva voce</i> thesis defence examination committee shall recommend one of the following:</p> <p>(a) Pass the examination without corrections to the thesis</p> <p>(b) Pass the examination with minor typographical/editorial/corrections or minor revisions to the thesis</p> <p>(c) Resubmit the thesis for re-examination after major revisions to the thesis</p> <p>(d) Recommend the thesis for a lower qualification</p>

			(e) Reject the thesis
<p><b>Recommended Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennett, B. (2014). Planning and managing scientific research. ANU Press. <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wp816">https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wp816</a></li> <li>• Creswell, J. W. (2018). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (5th ed.). Sage Publications.</li> <li>• Swales, J. M., &amp; Feak, C. B. (2012). Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills (3rd ed.). University of Michigan Press.</li> <li>• Turabian, K. L. (2018). A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (9th ed.). University of Chicago Press.</li> <li>• Day, R. A., &amp; Gastel, B. (2012). How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper (7th ed.). Cambridge University Press.</li> <li>• Peat, J., Elliott, E., Baur, L., &amp; Keena, V. (2002). Scientific Writing: Easy When You Know How. BMJ Books.</li> <li>• Hartley, J. (2008). Academic Writing and Publishing: A Practical Handbook. Routledge.</li> </ul> <p>For formatting and citation, you shall also follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PGIA Thesis Preparation Guidelines (available on the PGIA website).</li> </ul>			

The following structured administrative process ensures the quality and academic rigor of the MPhil programme, supporting scholars to complete their research in a timely manner and make meaningful, impactful contributions to their respective fields.

**1. Registration & Preparation of Initial Research Concept**

- Registered and enrolled in the MPhil degree programme
- Concept note presented and defended by the student (if necessary, revised)
- Accepted concept note by the Board of Study
- An Interim Supervisor appointed by the Board of Study

**2. Coursework & Academic Preparation**

- Board of Study recommended course works completed.
- Updated research notebook / e-portfolio

**3. Research Proposal Development**

- PhD research proposal developed with an Interim Supervisor based on the concept note accepted (this include critical review of scholarly literature, generation of research hypothesis/questions, critically assess methodologies, conceptualize and design a research project to generate new knowledge)
- MPhil research proposal presented and defended to the Board of Study (if necessary, revised)
- Board of Study accepted MPhil research proposal

#### **4. Supervision & Research Implementation**

- Signed Student-Supervisor Agreement with PGIA.
- Completed Research Student Supervision Record Forms (10 per year to provide meeting with Supervisory committee and evidences for conducting research based on developed research proposal)
- Ethical Clearance received from Ethical Clearance Committee
- Updated research notebook / e-portfolio

#### **5. Progress Reporting & Review**

- Satisfactory half-yearly (June and December) progress reports accepted by the Board of Study and Director (where student Located and or generated information/data relevant a research question, situated a research question within the existing field specific knowledge and where appropriate outside the field and/or discipline, organize information/data to reveal patterns/themes, and analyze information/data and synthesize information to generate new knowledge/understanding/technology)
- Satisfactory presentations using the Guidelines for Presentation of Progress Review of Research Students at half-yearly (June and December) progress review meetings conducted by the Board of Study/PGIA
- Updated research notebook / e-portfolio

#### **6. Seminar & Conference Participation**

- Participation certificates at least four research presentations by fellow MPhil students, particularly public seminars
- Certificates of presentations of research findings in three national/international fora (where analyzed data and information is presented in abstract, extended abstract of paper format)

#### **7. Publication Requirements**

- At least two research papers in refereed journals or evidence of two papers accepted for publication in refereed journal.

#### **8. Thesis Submission & Defence**

- Completed application for Thesis Defence Examination
- Prepared thesis in accordance with PGIA's Thesis Preparation Guidelines.

Note: Items 1–7 must be completed prior to the submission of the thesis for evaluation.

### **7. PROGRAMMEME DELIVERY AND LEARNER SUPPORT SYSTEM**

- 7.1 APPLICATION PROCEDURE**
- 7.2 PROGRAMME FEE**
- 7.3 PROCESSING OF APPLICATION**
- 7.4 DATE OF REGISTRATION**
- 7.5 WITHDRAWAL FROM A PROGRAMME**
- 7.6 READMISSION**

- 7.7 AMEDEMETS TO REGISTRATION**
- 7.8 DIFERMENT OF REGISTRATION**
- 7.9 CANCALATION OF REGISTRATION**
- 7.10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE PROGEMME**
- 7.11 REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPLETION OF PhD DEGREE**
- 7.12 PROGRESS REVIEW OF RESEARCH WORK**
- 7.13 PLACE OF RESEARCH WORK AND SUPERVISORS**
- 7.14 DURATION OF PHD STUDY**
- 7.15 SUBMISSION OF THESIS FOR EVALUATION**
- 7.16 EVALUATION OF PHD THESIS**
- 7.17 APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS AND EXAMINATION COMMITTEE**
- 7.18 DESK EVALUATION OF THESIS**
- 7.19 PUBLIC SEMINAR BY THE CANDIDATE**
- 7.20 THESIS DEFENCE EXAMINATION**
- 7.21 FINAL SUBMISSION OF THESIS**
- 7.22 EFFECTIVE DATE OF PhD DEGREE**
- 7.23 REQUIREMENTF FOR AWARD OF THE DEGREE**
- 7.24 RELEASE OF RESULTS**

See By-Laws of MPhil and PhD Programmes

## **8. POTENTIAL SUPERVISORS FOR PhD PROGRAMME**

Candidates applying for PhD degrees at PGIA may choose one or more supervisors from the teaching panel members across the Institute's 11 Boards of Study. With over 300 well-qualified academics and professionals representing diverse disciplines, PGIA ensures that candidates receive expert guidance aligned with their research interests. Where necessary, supervisors from outside the teaching panel or the Institute may also be appointed, based on their relevant expertise and research experience.



# University of Peradeniya

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<b>2</b>	<b>Programme Offering Entity</b>												
	2.1	Faculty/ Postgraduate Institute/CDCE	Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture										
	2.2	Department/s delivering the programme/relevant courses/ Board of study	Boards of Study in Agricultural Biology, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Extension, Animal Science, Biostatistics, Business Administration, Crop Science, Food Science and Technology, Plant Protection, Soil Science										
<b>3</b>	<b>Justification</b>		See attached document										
<b>4</b>	<b>Contact information to seek clarifications (preferably a mobile phone number):</b>		071 493 3591										
<p><b>Note: Ensure the availability of following information in the proposal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The complete structure of the programme</li> <li>2. The original structure of the study programme, if the programme structure is revised</li> <li>3. Please note that the relevant interest is expressed in the annual action plan of the Faculty/ Institute</li> </ol>													

Date of Approval by the 264th Coordinating Committee:

14.03.2025

Date of Approval by the 285th Board of Management:

28.03.2025

**Deputy Registrar**  
Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture

**Date: 23.05.2025**

## **1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil) (SLQF LEVEL 11) DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT THE POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE (PGIA), UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programme at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) is designed to promote advanced research skills, critical thinking, and professional competencies in agriculture and related fields. It fosters independent inquiry, serves as a strong foundation for doctoral studies, and prepares graduates for specialized roles in academia, industry, research, and policymaking. In an era where science and innovation drive agricultural and environmental sustainability, the MPhil plays a pivotal role in developing skilled researchers and problem solvers.

Through this programme, candidates are enabled to:

- Conduct original research that contributes to advancement of scientific knowledge and applications.
- Pursue PhD studies or advance in academic, research, and professional domains.
- Strengthen expertise in agriculture, agribusiness, sustainability, and rural development.

Candidates engage in either discipline-specific or multidisciplinary research under the supervision of qualified academic staff, addressing key challenges in agriculture, technology, and resource management. Since its establishment, PGIA has maintained a strong commitment to research excellence and capacity building. The MPhil programme, offered through 11 Boards of Study, continues to nurture future leaders across research, academia, and industry, contributing to national development and global knowledge exchange. Ultimately, the MPhil programme is designed to develop the research capacity of candidates and serves as a vital preparatory platform for those intending to pursue doctoral studies.

## **2. ATTRIBUTES OF QUALIFICATION HOLDERS**

The following competencies characterize MPhil graduates, equipping them to excel as independent researchers, critical thinkers, and professionals who contribute meaningfully to their fields and broader societal challenges:

Demonstrate critical awareness of current issues in their field and apply advanced methodologies and techniques relevant to research and professional practice.

Conduct independent, original research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge.

Make well-reasoned judgments on complex or contentious issues within their area of expertise and effectively communicate ideas, findings, and conclusions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Exhibit self-direction, initiative, and originality in problem-solving, while planning and executing tasks with professionalism, responsibility, and accountability.

### 3. PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOS) OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil) DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Upon successful completion of the MPhil programme in a chosen research area of study in Agriculture or an allied field, graduates will be able to:

1. Establish a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for conducting research in agriculture and related fields, enabling advanced inquiry.
2. Identify and formulate research questions and objectives that address critical knowledge gaps within the chosen research area.
3. Apply research skills to solve complex research problems in a chosen research area of agriculture and allied fields.
4. Disseminate research findings through written and oral communication, actively contributing to academic and professional discourse.
5. Demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams and diverse research environments.
6. Updated with evolving trends and emerging challenges in agriculture and related fields through continuous learning and skill development.
7. Maintain ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in research and professional practices.
8. Demonstrate the ability for independent inquiry and lifelong learning, preparing for advanced research or higher academic pursuits.

### 4. MAPPING

#### 4.1 The Alignment of PLOs with the level descriptors of SLQF

		PLOs of the Programme							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SLQF Level Descriptors of the relevant level	1. Subject / Theoretical Knowledge	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	2. Practical Knowledge and Application	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	3. Communication	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
	4. Teamwork and Leadership				√	√	√	√	
	5. Creativity and Problem Solving	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
	6. Managerial and Entrepreneurship					√	√		√
	7. Information Usage and Management	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	8. Networking and Social Skills			√	√	√	√	√	

9. Adaptability and Flexibility	√				√	√	√	√
10. Attitudes, Values and Professionalism					√	√	√	√
11. Vision for Life		√		√	√	√	√	√
12. Updating Self / Lifelong Learning	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

#### 4.2 The Alignment of the PLOs with the Graduate Profile of University of Peradeniya

With the attributes of the University Graduate Profile

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. The graduate is a <u>Holistic Thinker</u> and <u>Problem Solver</u> capable of making evidence-based decisions.	√	√		√	√	√	√	
2. The graduate is a <u>Scholar</u> who learns with the passion for becoming a subject specialist competent in theory and practice.	√	√	√					
3. The graduate is an outcome-oriented, group-spirited <u>Leader</u> who is able to delegate and corporate. He/she is an independent, influential <u>Collaborator</u> capable of facilitating conflict resolution.		√		√		√		√
4. The graduate is a <u>Role Model</u> who exemplifies competent, ethical and professional practices within the relevant domain of expertise.					√	√	√	
5. The graduate is a <u>Researcher</u> who pursues knowledge competently and philosophically and seeks solutions with an open mind.	√	√	√					
6. The graduate is an <u>Entrepreneur</u> and <u>Manager</u> , who initiates, innovates, negotiates, and is capable of networking to maximize opportunities mobilizing and allocating resources.			√	√	√	√		
7. The graduate is a <u>Digitally Literate Individual</u> who is skillful, ICT and media literate.	√		√					√
8. The graduate is a <u>Lifelong Learner</u> who is curious, goal-oriented, achievement-focused and self-directed.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

9. The graduate is a <u>Socially Intelligent and Sensitive Human Being</u> who is just, culturally aware, altruistic and pluralistic and inclusive. He/she respects nature.					√	√	√	
10. The graduate is an <u>Effective Communicator</u> who is language proficient, persuasive and empathetic.			√		√	√	√	
11. The graduate is a <u>Responsible Citizen</u> who is reliable and accountable	√		√	√		√	√	

### 4.3 The Alignment of the PLOs with the Graduate Profile of Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture

With the attributes of the University Graduate Profile

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. The graduate is a <u>Holistic Thinker</u> and <u>Problem Solver</u> capable of making evidence-based decisions.	√	√		√	√	√	√	
2. The graduate is a <u>Scholar</u> who learns with the passion for becoming a subject specialist competent in theory and practice.	√	√	√					
3. The graduate is an outcome-oriented, group-spirited <u>Leader</u> who is capable of delegating and corporate		√		√		√		√
4. The graduate is a <u>Role Model</u> who exemplifies competent, ethical and professional practices within the relevant domain of expertise.					√	√	√	
5. The graduate is a <u>Researcher</u> who pursues knowledge competently and philosophically and seeks solutions with an open mind.	√	√	√					
6. The graduate is an <u>Entrepreneur</u> and <u>Manager</u> , who initiates, innovates, negotiates, and is capable of networking to maximize opportunities mobilizing and allocating resources.			√	√	√	√		

7. The graduate is a <u>Digitally Literate Individual</u> who is skillful, ICT and media literate.	√		√					√
8. The graduate is a <u>Lifelong Learner</u> who is curious, goal-oriented, achievement-focused and self-directed.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
9. The graduate is a <u>Socially Intelligent and Sensitive Human Being</u> who is just, culturally aware, altruistic and pluralistic and inclusive. He/she respects nature.					√	√	√	
10. The graduate is an <u>Effective Communicator</u> who is language proficient, persuasive and empathetic.			√		√	√	√	
11. The graduate is a <u>Responsible Citizen</u> who is reliable and accountable	√		√	√		√	√	

## 5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENTS

See By-Laws of MPhil and PhD Programmes

## 6. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The candidate is required to engage in full-time research for a minimum of two years from the date of registration, under the supervision of a Supervisory Team recommended by the relevant Board of Study and approved by the Board of Management. Upon completion, the candidate must submit a thesis based on the research outlined in the proposal approved by the Board of Study, for the thesis defence examination.

In addition, the candidate must complete the required coursework for the MPhil programme at the earliest opportunity, as recommended by the Board of Study. Coursework may be undertaken at any recognized postgraduate institute in Sri Lanka or at a recognized higher education institution abroad.

<b>Semester</b>	Semester I to IV (Minimum of IV semesters)
<b>Course Code</b>	PGIA 7100
<b>Course Name</b>	Thesis/Dissertation
<b>Credit Value</b>	60 (6,000 notional hours)
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	Registration and course work requirements stipulated in the By-laws
<b>Core/Optional</b>	Core

Hourly Breakdown	Lectures (Hrs)	Tutorial (Hrs)	Practical Class (Hrs)	Research (hrs)		Independent Learning & Assessments (hrs)
	--	--	--	6,000		

### Programme Aim

This programme is designed to equip MPhil students with the knowledge, research skills, and analytical expertise required to address contemporary challenges in agriculture and related fields under 11 Boards of Study. It enables students to conduct independent, advanced research, integrating scientific knowledge, critical thinking, to generate innovative solutions to real world problems in their respective fields. Additionally, the course aims to enhance students' ability to communicate research findings effectively to scientific communities, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and the broader public, fostering contributions to sustainable agriculture, rural development, and food systems. This programme serves as a foundation for advanced academic and professional pursuits, preparing graduates for doctoral studies and specialized research careers.

### Programme Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this MPhil programme, students will be able to:

- Establish a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for conducting research in agriculture and related fields, enabling advanced inquiry.
- Identify and formulate research questions and objectives that address critical knowledge gaps within the chosen research area.
- Apply research skills to solve complex research problems in a chosen research area of agriculture and allied fields.
- Disseminate research findings through written and oral communication, actively contributing to academic and professional discourse.
- Demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams and diverse research environments.
- Updated with evolving trends and emerging challenges in agriculture and related fields through continuous learning and skill development.
- Maintain ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in research and professional practices.
- Demonstrate the ability for independent inquiry and lifelong learning, preparing for advanced research or higher academic pursuits.

**Programme Content:**

Completion of Boards of Study prescribed coursework to strengthen theoretical foundations, research methodology, and analytical skills aligned with the chosen field of study; Formulation of a concept note that defines the research problem, hypothesis, or research questions, demonstrating clarity of purpose and relevance to disciplinary or interdisciplinary priorities; Development of a comprehensive research proposal, including a scholarly review of literature, identification of research gaps, and justification of the research design, aligned with ethical and academic standards; Conceptualizing the overall research framework and designing a rigorous, feasible, and ethically sound research project to address identified knowledge gaps; Planning and executing the research project, including the collection or generation of primary and/or secondary data, ensuring methodological validity and relevance to the stated objectives; Positioning the research questions within the context of existing discipline-specific and, where appropriate, interdisciplinary or cross-sectoral knowledge frameworks; Applying appropriate analytical tools to process and critically interpret data, identify patterns, trends, and themes, and generate new knowledge that advances scientific understanding or practical applications; Preparation and submission of biannual progress reports and oral presentations to the relevant Board of Study or Supervisory Committee for review and feedback; Writing and submitting scientific publications, extended abstracts, and policy briefs, and preparing presentations for national and international conferences and stakeholder forums; Compilation, writing, and formatting of a thesis that meets institutional guidelines, incorporating revisions based on supervisor and examiner feedback, and successful defence of the research before an academic panel.

**Teaching /Learning Methods:**

Guided Self Learnings (reviewing the literature and methodologies, conceptualizing and designing experiments, conducting research, collecting data, analyzing results, preparing the thesis, abstract, poster, manuscripts etc.); Updating research notebook or e-portfolio; Problem Based Learning; Web Based Learning; Seminar participation; Discussions with supervisory committee; Participation in journal clubs; Progress presentations; Conducting undergraduate lectures.

**Forms of Evidences for Learning Outcomes:**

SLQF Domain	Programme Learning Outcome (PLO)	Assessment Criteria / Methods
Subject/Discipline Knowledge & Understanding	1	Literature reviews, research concept note, conceptual frameworks, research proposal defence, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Practical Knowledge & Application	2	Research proposal, conduct of research, progress reviews, thesis submission, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Critical Thinking, Analysis & Problem Solving	3	Data analysis, results and discussion sections in the thesis, publications, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination

Communication	4	Journal articles, public presentation, conference presentations, outreach reports, defence <i>viva voce</i> examination
Teamwork & Leadership	5	Progress reports, supervisor feedback
Lifelong Learning	6	Participation in workshops, conferences, training and reflection log reports
Ethical & Professional Conduct	7	Ethical approval, supervisor assessment, conduct records
Vision for Innovation / Career Development	8	Policy briefs, innovation proposals, knowledge transfer activities

**Programme Assessment Strategy:**

Continuous Assessment	Final Assessment		
	100 %		
Details:	Theory (%)	Practical (%)	Other (%)
	--	--	<p>Evaluation by two external examiners who are recommended by the Board of Management and the Senate, and approved by the Council. Evaluation is based on,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk evaluation of thesis</li> <li>• Evaluation of public presentation</li> <li>• Defence <i>viva voce</i> examination</li> </ul> <p>After completing, the <i>viva voce</i> thesis defence examination committee shall recommend one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Pass the examination without corrections to the thesis</li> <li>(b) Pass the examination with minor typographical/editorial/corrections or minor revisions to the thesis</li> <li>(c) Resubmit the thesis for re-examination after major revisions to the thesis</li> <li>(d) Recommend the thesis for a lower qualification</li> <li>(e) Reject the thesis</li> </ol>

**Recommended Reading**

1. Kennett, B. (2014). Planning and managing scientific research. ANU Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wp816>

2. Creswell, J. W. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.
3. Swales, J. M., & Feak, C. B. (2012). *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills* (3rd ed.). University of Michigan Press.
4. Turabian, K. L. (2018). *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (9th ed.). University of Chicago Press.
5. Day, R. A., & Gastel, B. (2012). *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper* (7th ed.). Cambridge University Press.
6. Peat, J., Elliott, E., Baur, L., & Keena, V. (2002). *Scientific Writing: Easy When You Know How*. BMJ Books.
7. Hartley, J. (2008). *Academic Writing and Publishing: A Practical Handbook*. Routledge.

For formatting and citation, you may also follow:

8. PGIA Thesis Preparation Guidelines (available on the PGIA website).

This structured process ensures the quality and rigor of the MPhil programme, preparing scholars for impactful contributions to their fields and further studies.

#### **1. Registration & Preparation of Initial Research Concept**

- Registered and Enrolled in the MPhil degree programme
- Concept note presented and defended by the student (if necessary revised)
- Accepted concept note by the Board of Study
- An Interim Supervisor appointed by the Board of Study

#### **2. Coursework & Academic Preparation**

- Board of Study recommended course works completed.
- Updating research notebook or e-portfolio

#### **3. Research Proposal Development**

- MPhil research proposal developed with an Interim Supervisor based on the concept note accepted (this include critical review of scholarly literature, developing research hypothesis/questions, critically assess methodologies, conceptualize and design a research programme)
- MPhil research proposal presented and defended to the Board of Study (if necessary revised)
- Board of Study accepted MPhil research proposal

#### **4. Supervision & Research Implementation**

- Signed Student-Supervisor Agreement with PGIA
- Completed Research Student Supervision Record Forms (10 per year to provide meeting with Supervisory committee and evidences for conducting research based on developed research proposal)

- Ethical Clearance received from Ethical Clearance Committee
- Updated research notebook or e-portfolio

### **5. Progress Reporting & Review**

- Satisfactory half-yearly (June and December) progress reports accepted by the Board of Study and Director (where student located and or generated information/data relevant a research question, situated a research question within the existing field specific knowledge and where appropriate outside the field and/or discipline, organize information/data to reveal patterns/themes, and analyze information/data and synthesize information)
- Satisfactory Research Progress Presentations using the Guidelines for Presentation of Progress Review of Research Students at half-yearly (June and December) progress review meetings conducted by the Board of Study/PGIA
- Updated research notebook or e-portfolio

### **6. Seminar & Conference Participation**

- Participation certificates at least three research presentations by MPhil or PhD students, particularly public seminars
- Certificates of Presentations of research findings in two national/international fora (where analyzed data and information is presented in abstract, extended abstract of paper format)

### **7. Publication Requirements**

- At least one research papers in a refereed journal or evidence of one paper being accepted for publications in a refereed journal and evidence of submission of another publication.

### **8. Thesis Submission & Defence**

- Completed application for Thesis Defence Examination
- Prepared thesis in accordance with PGIA's Thesis Preparation Guidelines.

Note: Items 1–7 must be completed prior to the submission of the thesis to the PGIA for evaluation.

## **7. PROGRAMME DELIVERY AND LEARNER SUPPORT SYSTEM**

See By-Laws of MPhil and PhD Programmes

## **8. POTENTIAL SUPERVISORS FOR MPhil PROGRAMME**

Candidates applying for MPhil degrees at PGIA may choose one or more supervisors from the teaching panel members across the Institute's 11 Boards of Study. With over 300 well-qualified academics and professionals representing diverse disciplines, PGIA ensures that candidates receive expert guidance aligned with their research interests. Where necessary, supervisors from

outside the teaching panel or the Institute may also be appointed, based on their relevant expertise and research experience.

### Comparison of Programme Learning Outcomes of MPhil and PhD Degrees

MPhil Degree	PhD Degree
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for conducting research in agriculture and allied fields, enabling advanced inquiry.</li> <li>2. Identify and formulate research questions and objectives that address critical knowledge gaps within the chosen field of study</li> <li>3. Apply analytical skills to solve complex research problems in chosen research area of agriculture and allied fields.</li> <li>4. Disseminate research findings through written and oral communication, actively contributing to academic and professional discourse.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills to work effectively in multidisciplinary and diverse research environments.</li> <li>6. Stay updated with evolving trends and emerging challenges in agriculture and related fields through continuous learning and skill development.</li> <li>7. Maintain ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in research and professional practices.</li> <li>8. Demonstrate the ability for independent inquiry and lifelong learning, preparing for advanced research or higher academic pursuits.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and consolidate advanced expertise in scientific theories and research methodologies in chosen research areas in agriculture and related fields, integrating multidimensional perspectives to address real world complex challenges.</li> <li>2. Conceptualize, design, conduct, and lead original research using advanced analytical techniques that identify knowledge gaps, generate new knowledge, and provide innovative solutions to critical issues in agriculture and related fields.</li> <li>3. Apply statistical and analytical techniques and critical thinking to evaluate/interpret scientific data critically and make evidence-based judgments to develop effective solutions for complex challenges in agriculture and related fields.</li> <li>4. Communicate research findings effectively through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and transfer knowledge to both specialist and non-specialist stakeholders.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, time management, and resilience to lead multidisciplinary research in agriculture and related fields across diverse environments.</li> <li>6. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning by continuously updating knowledge and skills to effectively respond to emerging trends and challenges in agricultural and related research fields.</li> <li>7. Maintain intellectual independence, academic and ethical integrity, accountability, and respect for societal and environmental values in conduct of research and professional practices.</li> <li>8. Recommend research findings to develop strategies, policies, advanced studies, education, and/or research-to-market strategies and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and related fields.</li> </ol>



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

Master of Philosophy (SLQF Level 11)  
Doctor of Philosophy (SLQF Level 12)

**By-Laws**

**2025**

**THE BYLAWS OF THE MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil) AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
(PhD) DEGREES OF THE POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE (PGIA)  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**PART 1: BY-LAWS**

- 1.1 These By-laws of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute") shall be enacted by the Council of the University of Peradeniya under Section 136 read with Section 24 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and its subsequent amendments, and the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 made under Section 24A of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978.
- 1.2 These By-laws shall be cited as the By-laws No. 1 of 2025 of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture and shall be effective from the date of approval of the Council of the University.

**PART 2: GENERAL**

- 2.1 The Institute offers postgraduate degrees (including Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Masters Degree and Master of Science degrees, postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate certificates and other academic distinctions in Agriculture and allied fields under the relevant Boards of Study as specified in Section 13 of the Ordinance of the Institute and subsequent amendments.
- 2.2 Subject to these By-Laws a student may be awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) / Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), as the case may be, if he/she has
  - 2.2.1 been duly admitted and registered for the programme for the period prescribed by these By-Laws;
  - 2.2.2 pursued the programme of study in the Institute to the satisfaction of the Director of the Institute and the Vice Chancellor of the University as prescribed by these By-Laws, and other Regulations and Rules of the Institute and the University;
  - 2.2.3 fulfilled the admission requirements, research concept note approval, research proposal approval, successful bi annual progress presentations, and successful bi annual progress report evaluations as required by the Institute's Board of Study. Met the expectations of the Thesis/Dissertation (hereafter referred to as the thesis) Defense Examiners through desk evaluation, research presentation and *viva voce* examination, as determined by the Board of Management. Additionally, satisfied any other assessment methods

prescribed by the Board of Management, culminating in the final presentation of the research in the form of an accepted thesis;

- 2.2.4 paid such application, registration, programme and administrative fees, library and other fees and deposits as may be payable by him/her to the Institute;
- 2.2.5 ensured that the registration continues to be in force; and
- 2.2.6 fulfilled all other requirements prescribed by these By-Laws and the Regulations and Rules of the Institute and the University.

### **PART 3: ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS**

- 3.1 The admission requirements and eligibility criteria for MPhil and PhD degree programmes are established in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF).
- 3.2 In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria outlined below, applicants must fulfill any programme-specific requirements, such as English language proficiency, proposal writing, scientific writing, statistical data analysis skills, and relevant work and research experience, as specified by Boards of Study and the Institute.
- 3.3 Applicants with the following minimum qualifications or above are eligible for admission to the MPhil degree programme in the relevant discipline or subject area of study:
  - 3.3.1 A Bachelor's Honours Degree (Level 6) in a relevant subject area from a university or other higher education institution (HEI) recognized by the UGC.
  - 3.3.2 A Bachelor's Degree (SLQF Level 5) in a relevant subject area from a university or other HEI recognized by the UGC, along with satisfactory performance at an admission interview conducted by the relevant Board of Study. The applicant must also demonstrate proven research experience, subject to the recommendation of the Board of Study and approval by the Board of Management.
  - 3.3.3 Any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the Institute.
- 3.4 Applicants with the following minimum qualifications or above are eligible for admission to the PhD/DBA degree programme in the relevant discipline or subject area of study:
  - 3.4.1 A Bachelor's Honours Degree (Level 6) in a relevant subject area from a university or other HEI recognized by the UGC, with a minimum GPA of 3.3 or above on a 4.0 scale, and a Research Project of at least 6 credits graded no lower than A-.

3.4.2 Any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the Institute.

#### **PART 4: ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 Applications for the MPhil (SLQF Level 11) and PhD (SLQF Level 12) programmes are accepted throughout the year.
- 4.2 Every application for admission must be made on the prescribed form (Annex 1) which can be obtained from the Deputy Registrar/Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar (hereafter referred to as Registrar) or an editable version of Annex 1 can be downloaded from the PGIA website (<http://www.pgia.ac.lk>).
- 4.3 Applications for admission can be submitted online, via email, or through a paper-based process, either by hand delivery or registered post.
- 4.4 A duly filled online application can be submitted through the MIS of the Institute along with scanned copies of
- (i) birth certificate,
  - (ii) degree certificate/s,
  - (iii) other educational/professional certificates,
  - (iv) National Identity card,
  - (v) the receipt of bank payment of the application fee (Rs. 3,000.00),
  - (vi) any other documents relating to the application,
  - (vii) two recent passport-size colour photographs, and
  - (viii) a concept note of his/her intended research using the Template for Submission of Research Concept Note (Annex 2) for MPhil and PhD degrees available on the website of the Institute.
- 4.5 A duly completed paper-based application must be submitted using the prescribed form (Annex 1), along with the documents listed in section 4.4.
- 4.6 The applicant must request their academic referees to fill out the two referee report forms (Annex 3) provided by the institute or available online and submit them to the Institute directly in a sealed envelope or via email ([dir@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dir@pgia.ac.lk) / [dr@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dr@pgia.ac.lk)) to the Director / Registrar of the Institute.
- 4.7 The applicant must make arrangements to send their official academic transcripts of Bachelor's degree and any other higher educational qualifications directly to the Registrar of the Institute from their relevant universities/institutes certified by a responsible officer.
- 4.8 An applicant who seeks admission and registration under equivalent qualifications or any other eligibility criteria referred in 3.3 or 3.4 of these By-laws shall annex documentary evidence of academic/research ability and other relevant professional qualifications in support of the application.

- 4.9 The applicant shall submit a letter of permission from the employer/Head of the Institute and a service/employment certificate from the employer, if applicable.
- 4.10 If any discrepancy between the name given in the application form and other documents submitted such as birth certificate, academic/professional certificates, or publications, an affidavit to the effect that the applicant is the same person known by all such names shall be sent with the application form.
- 4.11 The applicant should send the duly completed applications (paper-based or online) to the Registrar of the Institute by post (The Registrar, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, P.O. Box 55, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka) or email ([dr@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dr@pgia.ac.lk), [admission@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:admission@pgia.ac.lk)). All applications received will be date-stamped upon submission.

## **PART 5: ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

- 5.1 Upon receiving an application, the Admissions Branch of PGIA will verify its completeness using the PGIA Application Checklist based on Part 4 (4.1 to 4.11) of the By-laws. Complete applications will be forwarded to the Secretary of the relevant Board of Study immediately, while incomplete applications will prompt the Admissions Branch to notify the applicant regarding the deficiencies.
- 5.2 Each application along with all documents and concept note will be reviewed by the relevant Board of Study. Admission selection for the MPhil or PhD programme is based on the applicant's academic background, relevance, suitability, and capability for postgraduate studies. This evaluation considers transcripts of degrees and other academic or professional qualifications, referee reports, quality of research concept note, and any supporting documents submitted. Based on the assessment, the Board of Study invite the applicant to present his/her concept paper, allowing for further evaluation of candidate.
- 5.3 To be eligible for admission to a programme of study prescribed for a particular postgraduate degree, a person must have previously satisfied all the admission requirements specified for that postgraduate programme. Under no circumstances will the Institute grant an exemption from these requirements.
- 5.4 Based on the applicant's academic qualifications and the evaluation of the concept note and presentation, the Board of Study will accept or reject the concept note and recommend or decline a programme of study (MPhil or PhD) for each applicant considered for admission to the Institute.
- 5.5 If the concept note is accepted with no or minor corrections, the Board of Study will recommend a programme of study (MPhil or PhD) and appoint an Interim Supervisor to guide the student in developing the MPhil/PhD research proposal. Interim Supervisor is required to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Annex 4).

- 5.6 If the concept note requires major revisions, the Board of Study will appoint an Interim Supervisor to assist the student in revising the concept note for the MPhil/PhD research proposal, which must be resubmitted within two months for further review by the Board. The Board of Study request the applicant to present the concept note again to its members.
- 5.7 If the concept note is rejected, depending on the student request, the Board of Study may appoint an Interim Supervisor to assist the student in revising the concept note for the MPhil/PhD research, which must be resubmitted within three months for further review by the Board. The Board of Study request the applicant to present the concept note again to its members.
- 5.8 An application for admission to degree programmes may be denied if the applicant is found to:
- (a) have committed student/s of the university/any other HEI in acts of cheating, fraud, plagiarism, or any other act of academic dishonesty;
  - (b) have provided incorrect/false information to misrepresent the applicant's eligibility for admission;
  - (c) have committed acts of undue advantage such as canvassing to secure admission.
- 5.9 The Institute reserves the right to refuse future applications for admissions from rejected applicants, with the right to appeal such applicants to the Registrar of the Institute.
- 5.10 The Board of Study's decision on admission will be conveyed to the Registrar, who will inform applicants of the outcome. Successful applicants will receive an admission letter specifying the selected programme, associate student status, and required payments, including the refundable library deposit. In case of rejection, the Registrar will notify the applicant with reasons for the decision as soon as the information is received from the Board of Study.

## **PART 6: FEES AND METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- 6.1 Fees for Degree Programmes:
- 6.1.1 The fees payable by the candidate for their programmes shall be determined by the Institute from time to time.
- 6.1.2 The types of fees payable for postgraduate studies may include the following:
- (a) Application fee
  - (b) Administrative charges
  - (c) Programme fee
  - (d) Annual Congress fee
  - (e) Registration fee
  - (f) Refundable/non-refundable library deposit
  - (g) Thesis Defence Examination fee/repeat examination fee
  - (h) Any other fee/s as approved by the Board of Management
  - (i) Associated Student fee

### 6.1.3 Associate Student Fee

The Associate Student fees consist of a non-refundable amount of Rs. 25,000.00 and a refundable library deposit of Rs. 5,000.00, totaling Rs. 30,000.00.

6.1.4 The Institute reserves the right to maintain separate fee structures for local and foreign students, as well as for different study programmes, as outlined below:

#### 6.1.4.1 Fee structure for local students

Degree Programme	Application Fee (LKR)	Refundable Library Deposit (LKR)	Programme Fee (LKR)	Administrative fee <sup>1</sup> (LKR)
MPhil	3,000	5,000	300,000	20,000
DBA	3,000	5,000	500,000	28,500
PhD	3,000	5,000	400,000	28,500

<sup>1</sup> Administrative fee include Semester fees (3,500×4 or 6) Rs. 14,000/- or 21,000/- + Congress fees (1,500×2 or 3) Rs. 3,000/- or 4,500/- + Non-refundable Library Deposit Rs. 3,000/-).

#### Other Fees for local students

Category	Remarks	Fee Amount (LKR)
<b>Semester Fee</b>		
Registration <sup>1</sup>	Per semester	3,500
Student Welfare, Health Services and IT payment <sup>1</sup>	Per semester	1,200
Annual Congress <sup>1</sup>	Per year	1,500
Thesis Defense Examination	Per attempt	7,500
Provisional certificate <sup>2</sup>		500
Transcript <sup>2</sup>	Within SL, issued to the student	1,000
	Within SL, issued to officials	1,000
	Outside SL, issued to the student or officials	2,500

<sup>1</sup> Applicable two years after MPhil or three years after DBA/PhD, until the programme is completed within the stipulated time.

<sup>2</sup> will be issued within 3 working days

#### 6.1.4.2 Fee structure for foreign students

<b>Degree Programme</b>	<b>SAARC Countries/other developing countries (USD)</b>	<b>Other Countries (USD)</b>
MPhil	2,500	6,000
PhD	3,500	8,000

#### Other Fees for foreign students

<b>Category</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Fee Amount (USD)</b>
Application Fee		Free
<b>Semester Fee</b>		
Registration	Per semester	20
Student Welfare, Health Services and IT payment	Per semester	20
Annual Congress	Per year	20
Thesis Defense Examination	Per attempt	75*
Refundable Library Deposit	Per programme	50
Non-refundable Library Fee	Per programme	20
Fees for Casual/Research/Audit students and Pre-requisite courses (If applicable)	For each credit unit	30
Certificate fee		40

- 6.1.5 The Institute may offer concessionary rates of payment for foreign students from SAARC countries and other developing countries and students admitted under MOUs/Agreements with the Institute/University as approved by the Institute.
- 6.1.6 The Institute may offer a discount of 10% on the course fee for local/foreign students who pay the entire course fee within one month from the date of registration.
- 6.1.7 The Institute may offer a discount of 5% on the programme fee for employees of the university who fail to obtain financial support from the university/UGC or any other institution.
- 6.1.8 The Institute may offer a discount of one-third of the course fee for temporary and probationary staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of

Peradeniya who fail to obtain financial support from the university/UGC or any other institution.

- 6.1.9 The Institute may offer a 5% discount on the Programme Fee for local or foreign candidates who continue from a lower level qualification to a higher level qualification, both offered by the Institute, if they register for a higher level qualification within three months from the effective date of the lower-level qualification.

## 6.2 Method of Payment

- 6.2.1 Fees for all study programmes shall be paid by cheque written in favor of the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture or cash to the Recurrent Account No. 057-100131338027 at People's Bank, Peradeniya Branch as specified in the payment vouchers of the Institute or by online payment or to the Shroff counter by cash or credit/debit card.
- 6.2.2 The Candidates residing overseas at the time of payment shall pay the prescribed fees by bank draft or telegraphic transfer drawn in favor of the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture at the prevailing exchange rate or by online payment.
- 6.2.3 The Institute shall not accept payments by any other method unless arrangements have been made with the Institute.
- 6.2.4 A non-Sri Lankan candidate who resides in Sri Lanka at the time of payment shall pay the equivalent amount of the prescribed fee in Sri Lankan rupees at the prevailing exchange rate.
- 6.2.5 The candidate shall immediately send the original copies of the receipts, bank drafts/cheques to the Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, PO Box 55, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka by registered post.

## 6.3 Refund of Fees

- 6.3.1 Fee paid in excess due to a lapse of the Institute shall be refunded in full upon request or detection.
- 6.3.2 Fee or excess of the fee paid will be refunded less 10% of the administrative charge when the fee is paid due to a mistake on the part of the student.
- 6.3.3 If a student withdraws from a study programme within the first two weeks after commencement of the study programme, the fee shall be refunded retaining 10% of the total administrative cost.

- 6.3.4 If a student withdraws from a study programme between 3-4 weeks after commencement of the study programme, the fee shall be refunded retaining 30% of the total course fee as administrative fee.
- 6.3.5 If a student withdraws from a study programme 4 weeks after commencement of the study programme no fee shall be refunded.
- 6.3.6 Fee paid by a student shall be refunded immediately if an equivalent amount of payment has been made by a sponsor/employer of the student to the Institute.
- 6.3.7 The students who have completed the degree programme are eligible to claim their refundable deposits **within one year after the completion** of their degree programme upon providing the necessary clearances from respective entities.

## **PART 7: REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS**

### 7.1 Registration

- 7.1.1 An applicant selected to follow a study programme shall register with the Institute and enroll under a Board of Study within 45 days from the date of selection with an admission letter informed by the Registrar by paying the associate student fee and other applicable fees as Part 6 above. Failure to register within the given period without prior arrangement with the Institute shall make the selection null and void.
- 7.1.2 Registration as an Associate Student grants the student access to consult the Interim Supervisor and use library facilities for reference purposes for six months from the date of registration, with the possibility of a six-month extension.
- 7.1.3 Once the research proposal is accepted by the Board of Study, an Associate Student can be registered as an MPhil/PhD candidate. Registration as MPhil/PhD research student grants the student the right to enroll in courses and consult the Principal Supervisor, or other Co-Supervisors. All supervisors are required to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Annex 4).
- 7.1.4 However, if the research proposal requires ethical clearance, the student's registration will be granted conditionally, subject to the submission of approval from a recognized Ethical Clearance Committee (e.g., Faculty of Agriculture, Allied Health Sciences, Medicine, or PGIS) to the Board of Study.
- 7.1.3 A registered student shall receive information about his/her registration such as registration number, programme of study, academic calendar and requirements to complete the study programme, student identity card,

Student Record Book (for research students only), copy of By-laws, copy of the Postgraduate Brochure/ Prospectus/Handbook of the Institute.

- 7.1.4 Every student shall obtain the username and password to access the online Management Information System (MIS) at the PGIA, which includes all student information. The username of MIS is usually the registration number of the student and he/she can create his/her own password by logging on to the MIS at the Computer Unit of the Institute for the first time.
- 7.1.5 A student shall produce the Student Identity Card upon request by the Institute/University authorities to verify the student status and refer to his/her registration number in all correspondence with the Institute/University.
- 7.1.6 A registered student is expected to familiarize with the rules and regulations of the programme in which he/she is registered and other By-laws, regulations, and operational procedures of the Institute.
- 7.1.7 Student must ensure to remain registered at the Institute by continuing to pay the registration fee at the beginning and 2 years after MPhil degree or 3 years after PhD degree until completion of the programme as given below:

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Completion of the programme</b>
MPhil (SLQF 11)	Submission of a final bound copy of the Thesis to the Institute
PhD (SLQF 12)	

## 7.2 Classification of Students by Registration

### 7.2.1. Associate Students

- (a) A student selected for admission to the MPhil or PhD programme, with a concept note for research and an appointed Interim Supervisor by the Board of Study, is required to pay a non-refundable Associate Student fee of Rs. 25,000.00 and refundable library deposit of Rs. 5,000.00 (total of Rs. 30,000.00). The student will work with the Interim Supervisor to develop a research proposal and will be assigned a registration number as an Associate Student.
- (b) The Associate Student status will be automatically canceled if the student fails to submit a research proposal through the Interim Supervisor within six months from the date of enrollment. The fee is non-refundable. However, an extension of up to six additional months may be granted if the student provides a valid reason, supported by the Interim Supervisor and approved by the Board of Study and Board of Management.

- (c) Upon acceptance of the research proposal by the Board of Study, the Rs. 25,000.00 fee paid as an Associate Student will be credited toward the total programme fee upon registration as an MPhil or PhD research student.

#### 7.2.2 Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Research Students

- (a) A student who has been admitted to follow a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Degree programme of the Institute.

#### 7.2.3 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Research Students

- (a) A student who has been admitted to follow a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree programme of the Institute

#### 7.2.4 Provisional Students

- (a) A postgraduate student whose academic performance cannot be fully evaluated due to the unavailability of final certificates of qualifications at the time of registration may be admitted as a provisional student to follow a study programme at the Institute provided that the effective date of the degree/study programme with pending results shall be a date not later than the date of the commencement of the study programme of the Institute in which the candidate seeks registration.
- (b) A provisional student status will be converted to regular student status upon submission of the final certificates of the required educational and other qualifications within six months. Failure to submit these documents within the specified period will result in the cancellation of the provisional status.

#### 7.2.5 Exchange Postgraduate Student

- (a) An exchange student (local/foreign) is a student who is registered for a postgraduate programme in another university or HEI and has obtained permission from that university/HEI to take courses or engage in a research project of the Institute based on a transfer of credits/courses towards his/her degree programme.
- (b) Application for registration of an exchange student shall be approved by the relevant Board of Study/Institute on evidence of information submitted by the candidate.
- (c) An exchange student is entitled to obtain supervision, conduct research, attend lectures/seminars and use the library and other facilities of the Institute/University.

- (d) Every exchange student shall submit quarterly progress reports on his/her academic work to the relevant Board of Study for approval.

7.3 Effective Date of Registration

- 7.3.1 The registration date for an MPhil and PhD degree programme shall be the date on which the relevant Board of Study accepts the applicant's concept note for the research proposal, provided the applicable fees have been paid.
- 7.3.2 The minimum/maximum time period allowed for each degree programme is counted from the effective date of registration.

7.4 Qualifier of Degree Programme

- 7.4.1 The qualifiers for MPhil and PhD degree programmes shall be determined by the relevant Board of Study based on the disciplines and/or sub-disciplines of the thesis research.

7.5 Concurrent Registration

- 7.5.1 A student enrolled at the Institute shall not pursue any other programme at a tertiary institution concurrently, unless prior written approval is obtained from the Institute. Violation of this regulation may result in the discontinuation of the student's enrolment at the Institute.

7.6 Duration of Registration

- 7.6.1 A registered student is required to complete his/her degree programme within a minimum and maximum period of registration of the relevant degree programme.
- 7.6.2 The registration of a student for a postgraduate study programme shall be approved subject to the following minimum and maximum periods (years) of candidature:

<b>Degree Programme</b>	<b>Minimum Duration</b>	<b>Maximum Duration</b>
Master of Philosophy, MPhil (SLQF 11)	2	7
Doctor of Philosophy, PhD (SLQF 12)	3	8

- 7.6.3 However, in exceptional circumstances the relevant Board of Study of the Institute reserves the right to determine the minimum period of the candidature by evaluating the work completed by the student.

7.7 Change of Registration

- 7.7.1 If a student wants to change the degree programme/Board of Study or change the Thesis topic/title, approval has to be obtained from the Board of Study and Director by a written request. Research students should channel their requests with the recommendations of the Principal and Co-supervisor/s. Change of Programme and/or the Board of Study is allowed only within the first semester of registration.
- 7.7.2 If a student wants to change the personal information recorded at the time of registration, he/she shall make a request to the Registrar to amend that information in his/her registration. However, changes in name and title are not permitted after completion of all requirements for a degree programme.

## 7.8 Renewal of Registration

- 7.8.1 As the registration fee is charged upfront for the minimum study period, a student must renew their registration - after 2 years for the MPhil programme or 3 years for the PhD programme - by paying the applicable fees. This renewal is required to maintain active registration status until all degree requirements are fulfilled, provided it remains within the maximum allowable duration of the programme.
- 7.8.2 Application for renewal of registration shall be sent to the Registrar of the Institute at least two months before the date of expiry of the current registration

## 7.9 Extension of Registration

- 7.9.1 Under exceptional circumstances, the candidature of a student who fails to complete all the requirements of a degree programme within the maximum period specified in 7.7.2 may be considered for an extension by the relevant Board of Study subject to the approval of the Board of Management.
- 7.9.2 A student shall make a request to the Registrar of the Institute in the prescribed form giving reasons for the application for an extension. A student requesting an extension should provide evidence of progress in the research.
- 7.9.3 A student may be considered for an extension of up to one academic year initially. The maximum period of extension given to a candidate shall not exceed two academic years.
- 7.9.4 A student is not permitted to pay the programme extension fee, Rs. 25,000 per year for the MPhil programme and Rs. 50,000 per year for the PhD programme, until official approval for the extension has been granted by the relevant Board of Study and formally communicated to the student by the Registrar of the Institute.

7.9.5 Upon completion of the maximum period of any extensions, the candidature of a student who fails to complete the requirements of the degree programme shall automatically be terminated.

#### 7.10 Upgrading of Registration

7.10.1 Registration for an MPhil degree programme may be upgraded to a PhD programme after a minimum period of one (1) year, provided the student has completed all required coursework and demonstrated satisfactory research competence, as assessed by the Principal and Co-Supervisors and approved by the relevant Board of Study.

7.10.2 The student shall prepare a self-evaluation report known as the Transfer Report - in which he/she shall describe his/her overall research plan, progress made so far, his/her publications (at least a submission of research paper to a peer-reviewed journal) and the research plan for the balance period leading to a PhD. This report shall be certified and endorsed by his/her Principal and Supervisory Committee. The Director and the Board of Study will carry out a desk study of this transfer report and following a presentation and *viva voce*, shall evaluate according to the following guidelines:

(a) Evaluate the quality of the research work carried out by him/her thus far to determine whether he/she has shown exceptional competence.

(b) Study the plan for future work and determine whether it is of sufficient academic merit and is viable concerning funds and facilities and the limitations of time.

7.10.3 The Board of Study shall make a recommendation to the Director keeping in mind that a PhD degree programme is expected to create new knowledge through original research of quality that makes a significant contribution to developing the discipline and satisfying peer review while meriting publication.

7.10.4 With the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Management shall approve/not approve the upgrading of registration. The date of approval of the Board of Study shall be the effective date of upgrading the registration.

7.10.5 The maximum period of the candidature of a student whose registration is upgraded shall be counted from his/her initial date of registration for the programme from which he/she receives the upgrading.

#### 7.11 Downgrading of Registration

7.11.1 A student who is registered for a PhD degree may be downgraded and awarded an MPhil on the following conditions:

(a) On a request by the candidate with the endorsement of the Principal Supervisor and Supervisory Committee.

(b) On a recommendation by the Principal Supervisor and Supervisory Committee.

7.11.2 A student who has prepared and submitted a Thesis for a PhD degree that has been rejected by the Thesis Defense Examination may be considered for an award of MPhil on the following conditions:

(a) Recommendation by the Thesis Defense Committee.

(b) An evaluation by an independent two member committee appointed by the Director on being approved by the Board of Management. Such a committee shall examine the Thesis and all connected documents, determine the reasons why the Thesis was rejected for a PhD degree and evaluate whether it can be accepted for an MPhil degree.

## 7.12 Deferment of Registration

7.12.1 A student, upon request, shall give deferment of registration for one academic year at a time on medical grounds or any other reason acceptable to the relevant Board of Study. The approval of the Chief Medical Officer of the University Health Centre is required for all medical certificates. A documentary proof should be provided with the application for deferment for any other reasons.

7.12.2 Request for extension of deferment should be made to the Registrar of the Institute at least one month before the date of expiry of the current deferment.

7.12.3 The maximum period of deferment given to a student in a given programme shall not exceed five academic years in total.

7.12.4 The period of deferment granted shall be excluded in calculating the minimum and maximum period of registration of the candidature.

7.12.5 A student registered for a split or sandwich or joint degree programme with a collaborating institution of the Institute may be released, on deferment, for a specific period of time to continue the programme in the collaborating institution.

7.12.6 A student returning from the deferment shall request the Registrar of the Institute to re-activate and renew his/her registration from the date of return.

### 7.13 Leave of Absence

7.13.1 A student, upon request, shall give leave of absence for one academic semester (maximum of six months) at a time on medical grounds or any other reason acceptable to the relevant Board of Study. The approval of the Chief Medical Officer of the University Health Centre is required for all medical certificates. A documentary proof should be provided with the application for leave of absence under any other reasons.

7.13.2 Request for extension of leave of absence should be made to the Registrar of the Institute at least one month before the date of expiry of the current leave of absence.

7.13.3 The maximum period of leave of absence given to a student in a given programme shall not exceed one academic year in total.

7.13.4 The period of leave of absence granted shall be included in calculating the maximum period of registration of the candidature.

### 7.14 Withdrawal of Registration and Re-registration

7.14.1 Any student who failed to register for two consecutive semesters 2 years after MPhil degree or 3 years after PhD degree without the Director's approval, or has exceeded the time limit permitted for each degree programme shall be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn from the programme.

7.14.2 Any student who wishes to withdraw his/her registration shall request for withdrawal of registration using a prescribed form to the Registrar of the institute. The effective date of the withdrawal shall be the date of approval by the relevant Board of Study.

7.14.3 Any student seeking re-registration to the same programme after withdrawal shall follow the normal process of application as other applicants competing for admission for the academic year.

### 7.15 Suspension of Registration

7.15.1 The Director of the Institute by consulting the Chairperson of the relevant Board of Study shall temporarily suspend the registration of a student for a period of one month if he/she feels that the student has violated rules and regulations of the Institute and the University and the presence of the student disturbs normal operations of the Institute.

7.15.2 In such a case, the Director of the Institute shall appoint a three member committee on being approved by the Board of Management to investigate

the matter and report to the Board of Management through the relevant Board of Study.

#### 7.16 Termination of Registration

7.16.1 The Board of Management of the Institute reserves the right to terminate the candidature of a student upon recommendation from the relevant Board of Study after formal consideration of reports submitted by supervisor/s and / or committee/s of Inquiry appointed by the Director of the Institute.

7.16.2 One or more of the following reasons shall lead to the termination of registration: Failure to meet registration requirements, non-payment of prescribed fees within the first six months of each year, expiry of maximum period of registration and extensions, failure to meet coursework requirements in three sittings, failure to submit progress reports and attend progress review meetings, fail the *viva voce* examination twice, and violation of rules and regulations of the Institute and the University that leads to termination of the registration.

7.16.3 Applications for new admission to the same programme or any other programme of the Institute by a person whose registration was terminated due to disciplinary reasons and violation of codes of conduct and ethics of the Institute/University shall not be considered for a period of two years from the date of termination.

7.16.4 Subject to the exemption given in Section 7.16.3 above, a candidate seeking admission to the same or any other programme after termination of registration shall follow the normal process of application. His/her application shall be given the same consideration as those of other applicants competing for admission for a degree programme in a given academic year.

### **PART 8: STUDENT REQUESTS**

8.1 All requests of students shall be addressed to the Director/Registrar of the Institute using the "Student Request Form" (Annex 5), if necessary with a copy to the Secretary of the relevant Board of Study. Students must include their registration number and contact details in all reference requests and submit the request through their Principal Supervisor and Supervisory Committee.

8.2 The Director/Registrar shall issue a Letter of Reference of the studentship and academic performance at the Institute upon the request of a student on a prescribed fee.

8.3 The date of approval of the request shall be the date of the meeting of the relevant Board of Study which approved the request.

- 8.4 The decision of the Board of Study regarding student request(s) shall be communicated to the student in writing by the Registrar of the Institute.
- 8.5 Any student grievance may also be reported to the Institute's Grievance Committee as suggested in 14.3.
- 8.6 Alternatively, students may discuss their concerns with the Institute's "Student Success Centre".

## **PART 9: REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMME COMPLETION / EXIT**

### 9.1 General

- 9.1.1 The requirements for programme completion outlined below shall be drawn in line with the minimum requirements given in the SLQF for different levels of qualification.
- 9.1.2 The specific requirements of programme completion such as the amount of credit, grade requirements for specific course components and coursework requirements as non-credit courses may vary by the programme as specified in the regulations of the degree programme and the candidates by the Board of Study.
- 9.1.3 The specific requirements of programme completion shall be communicated to students by the Registrar of the Institute in the Letter of Admission to a degree programme and provided in the Student Handbook of the Institute in detail.

### 9.2 Master of Philosophy Degree (SLQF Level 11)

- 9.2.1 A student who successfully completes courses prescribed by the relevant Board of Study on a non-credit basis and a scholarly Thesis and Thesis defence *viva voce* examination shall be awarded the degree of MPhil (SLQF Level 11) in the relevant discipline.
- 9.2.2 An MPhil Thesis not reaching the required standards may be considered for the award of a Diploma.

### 9.3 Doctor of Philosophy Degree (SLQF Level 12)

- 9.3.1 A student who completes courses prescribed by the relevant Board of Study on a non-credit basis and a scholarly Thesis and a Thesis defence *viva voce* examination shall be awarded the degree of PhD (SLQF Level 12) in the relevant discipline.

- 9.3.2 A student who wishes to exit the programme early shall be awarded the degree of MPhil upon completion of the entire requirement for the MPhil degree within the stipulated period in the relevant discipline.

## **PART 10. RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE, PROPOSAL, CONDUCT AND SUPERVISION**

### **10.1 Concept Note, Research Proposal & Appointment of Interim Supervisor**

- 10.1.1 Every applicant for research degrees shall submit a Concept note together with the application for a research degree using the “Template for Submission of Research Concept Note” (Annex 2). Once the Concept Note is presented, reviewed and upon acceptance by the Board, an Interim Supervisor will be appointed by the Director based on the recommendation of the Board of Study and the approval of the Board of Management. It shall be the responsibility of the Interim Supervisor to guide and assist the student in developing the research proposal, assess it and suggest necessary amendments and recommend the submission of the proposal for evaluation.
- 10.1.2 Once the research proposal is developed to an acceptable level by the student in consultation with the Interim Supervisor, it must be submitted to the Board of Study using the format provided by the Institute in “Template for Submission of Research Proposal” (Annex 6) within three months of the student’s original date of registration.
- 10.1.3 The Board of Study will circulate the research proposal among its members and invite the student to present it. The proposal will be evaluated using the "Guidelines to Evaluate Student Research Proposal" (Annex 7). If the proposal is satisfactorily defended and accepted, either without corrections or with minor corrections, it will be recorded in the minutes of the Board of Study meeting, and the candidate will be permitted to proceed with the research programme. The interim supervisor shall attend the presentation as an observer. If the Chairperson of the Board is the Interim Supervisor, the Secretary of the Board shall act as Chairperson for that session.
- 10.1.4 If the proposal is accepted within three months from the original date of registration, his/her effective date of commencement of research shall be backdated to the original date of registration/or acceptance of the concept note whichever comes earlier. If not, the date on which his/her proposal is accepted will be considered as the effective date of commencement of research.
- 10.1.5 If the proposal requires major corrections, the candidate must revise it in consultation with the Interim Supervisor based on the feedback provided by the Board of Study members, and resubmit it for evaluation through another presentation and defence of the proposal.

### **10.2 Appointment of Supervisors**

- 10.2.1 The relevant Board of Study, upon acceptance of the research proposal of a student, shall recommend a Supervisory Committee comprising a minimum of two members with at least one member from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, representing the relevant discipline and appointed by the Director with the approval from the Board of Management and the Senate of the University of Peradeniya. If the student is affiliated with an organization, the Board of Study may suggest members from the affiliated institute to the supervisory committee. All supervisors are required to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Annex 4).
- 10.2.2 The Board of Study shall appoint one member of the committee as Chairperson (or Principal Supervisor) of the Co-supervisors and Supervisory Committee.
- 10.2.3 A person appointed as Principal Supervisor or supervisor to the Supervisory Committee should be academically qualified, competent, knowledgeable, and active in the field of proposed research area. They should possess a research degree equivalent to or higher than that for which registration is sought by the student.
- 10.2.4 A person without a research degree may be considered a supervisor only if there is consistency in evidence of quality publications in peer-reviewed journals and citations in indexed journals.
- 10.2.5 The Institute should make sure that supervisors are accessible throughout the total period of study.
- 10.2.6 The Institute should prepare and provide "Guidelines for Supervision of Postgraduate Research Degrees" (Annex 8) to the students and supervisors and "Ethical Guidelines for Research Supervisors" (Annex 9) to Supervisors.
- 10.2.7 The Institute shall prepare Terms of Reference for supervisors on the conditions such as duty list, responsibilities of the appointment, and termination of the appointment and the supervisor shall agree with the Director through a letter of appointment.
- 10.2.8 Students are required to sign a "Student-Supervisor Agreement on Postgraduate Research Supervision" (Annex 10) with the PGIA through their supervisors.

### 10.3 Records on Supervision Process

- 10.3.1 It is expected that the Principal Supervisor, along with other supervisors, will serve as guides and mentors to MPhil/PhD students, supporting them in the successful completion of their research programme. Accordingly, students must meet with their Principal Supervisor and other supervisors regularly to

report on their research progress. During each meeting, students should receive feedback on their work to date and obtain the supervisors' signatures on the "Research Student Supervision Record Form" (Annex 11). A minimum of 10 formal meetings per year is required during the first year of the programme, and at least 6 formal meetings per year thereafter.

#### 10.4 Progress Review of MPhil/PhD Research Degrees

- 10.4.1 All research students are required to complete the courses recommended by their Supervisory Committee, Board of Study and any courses designated as compulsory for the degree programme. MPhil and PhD students are permitted to take up to 10 credits of coursework free of charge. Students who have not previously completed equivalent undergraduate courses in Scientific Writing and Basic Statistics with a minimum grade of "B" and demonstrated research competence through publications in peer-reviewed journals must enroll in these courses as part of their programme.
- 10.4.1. All MPhil/PhD research students shall submit two copies of progress reports to the PGIA through the supervisor(s) for approval of the Board of Study and Director using the "Research Progress Report Submission Form" (Annex 12) by 30<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year from the date of commencement of research, until the submission of application for Thesis Defence Examination.
- 10.4.2 Research work of a student shall be evaluated as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory by the Principal Supervisor at the end of each six month period on the "Research Progress Report Submission Form" (Annex 12) submitted by the research student.
- 10.4.3 The progress reports that are unsatisfactory as decided by the Board of Study may lead to suspension of registration.
- 10.4.4 One copy of the report shall be returned to the student with the endorsement of the Board of Study and Director for information.
- 10.4.5 All M.Phil./PhD research students shall present their work progress at the Progress Review Meeting scheduled by the relevant Board of Study or PGIA in the months of June and December using the format provided by the PGIA on "Guidelines for Progress Report Presentation" (Annex 13). In addition to the Board of Study member's, respective supervisors, a three-member committee will be appointed by the Board of Management to evaluate the progress of all candidates and submit to the Board of Study/Director for further action.

- 10.4.6 If, in the opinion of the relevant Board of Study, on the recommendation of the supervisor/s, a student is not making satisfactory progress, the relevant Board of Study through the Board of Management may recommend to the Senate to suspend or cancel the registration of the respective candidate. Thereafter, upon the acceptance of such recommendation by the Senate, such candidate shall cease to be a registered candidate for the respective research degree. There shall be no refund of fees.
- 10.5 Evidence for Attending in Presentations done by colleagues and Presentation/ Communication of Findings in Seminars and Conferences:
- 10.5.1 A student of MPhil degree programme of the Institute shall produce evidence of attending at least three presentations done by the MPhil/PhD colleagues, especially public seminars by MPhil and PhD students before the submission of the Thesis for evaluation.
- 10.5.2 A student of PhD degree programme of the Institute shall produce evidence of attending at least four presentations done by the PhD colleagues, especially public seminars by PhD students before the submission of the Thesis for evaluation.
- 10.5.3 A student of MPhil degree programme of the Institute shall produce evidence of presenting his/her research work at least twice in nationally / internationally recognized academic forums including the PGIA Annual Congress from the date of registration for the programme and before the submission of the Thesis for evaluation.
- 10.5.4 A student of PhD degree programme of the Institute shall produce evidence of presenting his/her research work at least three times in nationally / internationally recognized academic forums including the PGIA Annual Congress from the date of registration for the programme and before the submission of the Thesis for evaluation.
- 10.5.5 In all such presentations of a part/parts of the Thesis in academic forums, the student shall indicate his/her correspondence/affiliation to the Institute and acknowledge that the work presented is a part of his/her thesis to be submitted to the PGIA of the University.
- 10.6 Evidence for Research Publication Requirements before Submission of Thesis:
- 10.6.1 A MPhil/PhD research students shall submit proof of the following publication requirements in peer reviewed / refereed journal/s, to be eligible for the Thesis Defense Examination.

Degree Programme	Publication Requirement
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MPhil	Publish at least one research paper or accept one publication* and submit** another research paper in a reputed journal
PhD	Publish at least two research papers or accept* two publications in a reputed journal

\* evidence(s) for acceptance of paper(s) from editor(s) of the Journal(s) is/are required; \*\* evidence of submission is required.

10.6.2 The publication of the above articles may be done as joint publications with the supervisor/s of the student as joint author/s with the student as the first (senior) author.

10.6.3 All such publications as journal articles or book chapters, the student shall acknowledge his/her affiliation to the institute that the work published is a part of his/her Thesis submitted for a postgraduate degree of the Institute.

10.6.4 The publication of part of a Thesis without due acknowledgment shall not be considered as fulfilling the requirements given in Section 10.6.1.

## 10.7 Submission of Thesis for Evaluation

10.7.1 The Thesis shall be written in English. Candidates, for the MPhil Degree shall be required to submit the Thesis on the approved Research Topic demonstrating

- (a) knowledge of the methods of research
- (b) competence to present material systematically
- (c) the ability to exercise critical and independent judgment and
- (d) make a significant contribution to the chosen field of study.

In addition to this, in the case of PhD Degree candidacy, the work should also represent a significant and original contribution creating new knowledge to the chosen field of study. It is suggested that the Thesis shall be submitted to the Institute within three months after the end of the minimum prescribed period of study.

10.7.2 For the submission, the student shall inform the Director through Principal Supervisor and other supervisors in writing at least three months before the intended date of submission of the Thesis to provide sufficient time for the Institute to arrange the examination process.

10.7.3 Students should have completed the necessary course/s prescribed by the Supervisors, and the Board of Study submitted progress reports 30<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year since registration and made progress review presentations at the progress review meetings held by the relevant Board of Study/Institute in the months of July and January (the following year) until the submission of the Thesis to the Institute.

10.7.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Principal Supervisor and Supervisors to monitor the writing of the Thesis as per the approved format of the Institute and recommend the submission of the Thesis for examination. The Thesis should adhere to the Thesis preparation guidelines of the institute (Annex 14).

10.7.5 The student is required to include the following declaration in the Thesis:

*"I, (Full Name of Student), hereby declare that the thesis titled "(Title of the Thesis)" is the result of my own original independent work. All sources of information, data, and ideas derived from other authors or institutions have been duly acknowledged and cited in accordance with recognized academic and ethical standards. I am fully aware of the PGIA's strict policy on plagiarism and understand the disciplinary consequences associated with any breach thereof. I confirm that this thesis contains no unauthorized copying, paraphrasing, or other forms of academic dishonesty. Furthermore, I affirm that this thesis has not been submitted previously, in whole or in part, for the award of any degree or diploma at this or any other institution".*

I hereby acknowledge that I have used *(Name of AI tool or technology)* [accessible at: *(URL/link)*] in the preparation of this thesis for the purpose of *(briefly state the purpose, e.g., language editing, idea generation, formatting, etc.)*. The use of such technology complies with the academic integrity policies of the PGIA, and all outputs generated by the tool have been critically reviewed, appropriately modified, and verified by me to ensure academic accuracy and originality.

I hereby confirm that I have not used any artificial intelligence (AI) tools or technologies in the preparation of this thesis. The entirety of the work presented herein is the result of my own intellectual effort, in full compliance with the academic integrity and originality requirements of the PGIA.

10.7.6 The student should submit two (for MPhil degree) or three (for PhD degree) spiral-bound copies and the PDF version of the Thesis to the Registrar of the Institute with the certification of all supervisors that the research programme has been completed and the Thesis is suitable for submission to the Examination Committee with duly completed "Application for Thesis Defense Examination" (Annex 15). The Supervisor(s) shall endorse the submission of the Thesis by duly completing the relevant section of Annex 15. The submitted Thesis shall be date-stamped by the Institute.

10.7.7 The Institute reserves the right to reject the acceptance of a Thesis for evaluation if it is not in conformity with the "Thesis Preparation Guidelines of

the Institute” (Annex 14) and/or not submitted with the duly completed “Application for Thesis Defense Examination” (Annex 15) of the Institute.

## **PART 11: METHOD OF ASSESSMENT & THESIS DEFENCE EXAMINATION PROCEDURE**

### **11.1 Method of Assessment**

11.1.1 A Thesis submitted for a research degree shall be examined by the “Thesis Defence Examination Committee” appointed by the Senate and Council of the University of Peradeniya on the recommendation of the Board of Study and the Board of Management of the PGIA.

11.1.2 The Thesis Defence Examination shall not be conducted without allowing the Thesis Defence Examination Committee a sufficient evaluation period, typically three months. However, the entire examination process is expected to be completed within six months from the date the student submits the thesis to the Institute for evaluation.

11.1.3 The examination of a thesis submitted for a research degree consists of two stages: a desk evaluation and a *viva voce* (thesis defence). These stages assess the final research outcomes as proposed in the original research proposal.

### **11.2 Composition of Thesis Defence Examination Committee and Selection of Examiners**

11.2.1 The composition of the Thesis Defence Examination Committees for MPhil degrees shall be as follows:

- Director/PGIA or his/her nominee is the Chairperson of the Committee (See Annex 16 for duties of the Chairperson).
- Two (02) External Thesis Evaluators (Examiners).
- Supervisors (as observers).

11.2.2 The composition of the Thesis Defence Examination Committees for PhD degrees shall be as follows:

- Director/PGIA or his/her nominee is the Chairperson of the Committee (See Annex 16 for duties of the Chairperson).
- Three (03) External Thesis Evaluators (Examiners).
- Supervisors (as observers).

- 11.2.3 External Thesis Evaluators (Examiners) must be subject experts who are not part of the Institute's supervisory panel.
- 11.2.4 External Thesis Evaluators (Examiners) must be academically qualified, actively involved in relevant research, supervision of MPhil/PhD students, and possess a research degree equal to or higher than the one pursued by the candidate. They must demonstrate subject-specific or methodological expertise and be capable of providing independent, objective assessments of the thesis.
- 11.2.5 They should not have co-authored any publications with the student or be affiliated with the student's institution, where applicable.
- 11.2.6 All External Thesis Examiners must have no conflicts of interest and are required to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Annex 4).
- 11.2.7 External thesis examiners shall be appointed only after their consent is obtained to assess both desk evaluation and the *viva voce* examination.
- 11.2.8 The Thesis Defence Examination Committees for MPhil/PhD degree programmes shall be proposed by the Board of Study, and recommended by the Board of Management and approved by the Senate of the University.
- 11.3 Desk Evaluation of the Thesis by Thesis Defense Examination Committee
- 11.3.1 Upon receiving the Thesis from the student and the soft and hard copies of the "Thesis Evaluation Form" (Annex 17), the Institute will promptly provide Thesis Defence Examination Committee with a spiral-bound copy and a PDF version of the Thesis, ensuring confidentiality.
- 11.3.2 Each Thesis Examiner (as of 11.2.1 or 11.2.2 above) shall carry out the desk evaluation of the Thesis independently whether the Thesis demonstrates mature scholarship and the ability to conduct high-quality original research without supervision and provide evidence for generating new knowledge by publishing in peer-reviewed, indexed journals and submit a report to the Director or Registrar of the Institute indicating whether the Thesis is acceptable or not by completing the "Thesis Evaluation Form" (Annex 17). The report shall be submitted within a period of three (03) months. The Senate on the recommendation of the Board of Management shall have the power to appoint another examiner/s in the event that the examiner/s does/do not comply with the requisite time period of evaluation or for any other valid reason.
- 11.3.3 In the above 11.3.2 report, among other comments in the relevant sections examiners shall recommend one of the following:
- (a) Accept the Thesis in the present form

- (b) Accept the Thesis with minor typographical/ editorial/corrections and minor revisions to the text
- (c) Resubmit the Thesis for re-examination after major revisions
- (d) Consider the Thesis for a lower qualification
- (e) Reject the Thesis

11.4.3 The reports of Thesis Examiners are kept confidential to students and supervisors until the completion of the *viva voce* thesis defence examination.

## 11.5 *Viva Voce* Thesis Defence Examination

11.5.1 To qualify for the award of the MPhil or PhD degree, a candidate must undergo a *viva voce* thesis defence examination within one month of receiving all thesis evaluation reports. This examination will be conducted only if the desk evaluation is deemed satisfactory by the examiners, at least two out of three for a PhD, or one out of two for an MPhil degree.

11.5.2 The composition of the *viva voce* Thesis defence examination committee is the same as 11.2, and shall consist of the same Thesis Examiners who conducted the desk evaluation.

11.5.3 Every research student shall deliver a public seminar based on the Thesis before the *viva voce* Thesis Defence Examination. The seminar presentation shall be prepared based on the guidelines given by the Institute (Annex 13). The public seminar session is chaired by the Director of the Institute and attended by the examiners and supervisors.

11.5.4 The objectives of the seminar presentation shall be to:

- (a) Communicate his/her research findings to a wider audience for their appraisal.
- (b) Demonstrate that he/she developed the capacity to generate substantive insights in a particular area of study through high-quality original research.
- (c) Disseminate his/her research findings and demonstrate their wider (national/global) importance and relevance.
- (d) Gain confidence in the general soundness of his/her research work and be made aware of its weaknesses.
- (e) Obtain diverse views from the audience on his/her research and its context that may be incorporated into his/her Thesis.

11.5.5 Following the seminar session, the *viva voce* Thesis Defence Examination will be conducted by the Thesis Defence Examination Committee, chaired by the Director. The purpose of the *viva voce* is to assess the originality of the research, the candidate's ability to effectively present and defend their thesis, and their competence in responding to questions related to the research and its broader academic context. The examination also evaluates the candidate's theoretical knowledge, analytical thinking, the adequacy and

relevance of information presented, creativity and innovation in research, soundness of conclusions and recommendations, as well as overall communication and presentation skills to determine their suitability for the award of the degree.

11.5.6 The student should bring along the thesis submitted to the PGIA to the Thesis Defence Examination.

11.5.7 A research student shall pass a *viva voce* thesis defence examination of his/her thesis. The maximum number of attempts at *viva voce* examination shall be two (2).

11.5.8 The Thesis Defence Examination shall not be held unless all examiners are present. The institute shall arrange the *viva voce* examination of a student using any technology-driven mode to facilitate the attendance of the student or examiners or supervisors for the *vice voce* examination.

11.5.9 At the end of the *viva voce* examination, the Director shall request the candidate to leave the examination hall and independently obtain from the examination committee members a grade of Satisfactory (“S”) or Unsatisfactory (“U”) based on the thesis evaluation and *viva* performance. The final decision shall be made by consensus, with the Director moderating any discussions on contentious issues to facilitate agreement.

11.5.9 The *viva voce* thesis defence examination committee shall recommend one of the following:

- (a) Pass the examination without corrections to the thesis.
- (b) Pass the examination with minor typographical/editorial/corrections or minor revisions to the thesis.
- (c) Resubmit the thesis for re-examination after major revisions to the thesis.
- (d) Recommend the thesis for a lower qualification.
- (e) Reject the thesis.

11.5.10 If two or more examiners reject the thesis, the candidate will not be permitted to proceed to the *viva voce* thesis defence examination. In such cases, the Examination Committee will convene to determine the appropriate course of action, which may include recommending the award of a lower degree, depending on the original degree sought, or the outright rejection of the thesis.

## 11.6 Effective date of award of MPhil / PhD degrees

11.6.1 The effective date of the degree must be a date that falls after the completion of the minimum required duration of the respective degree programme.

- 11.6.2 In the case of passing the thesis defence examination without corrections, the effective date of the degree will be the date the thesis is submitted for examination to the Institute, provided that the final version of the thesis is submitted in three bound copies to the Registrar of the Institute within three months of the *viva voce* examination, following confirmation from the IQAC of PGIA regarding adherence to the prescribed thesis submission format.
- 11.6.3 If the student passes the examination with minor typographical/editorial corrections or minor revisions to the thesis, the student must address all corrections/revisions and submit the PDF version of the revised thesis to the IQAC for confirmation that the thesis complies with the Institute's guidelines. Upon confirmation from the IQAC, the student shall submit the PDF version of the thesis to the Director for printing approval, accompanied by an endorsement from the Principal Supervisor stating that all corrections and suggestions made by the examiners have been addressed. Once printing approval is obtained, the student must print the thesis and submit three bound copies to the Registrar of the Institute.
- (a) If the thesis is submitted to the Institute within three months of the thesis defense *viva voce* examination, the effective date of the degree will be one month after the date the thesis is submitted for examination to the Institute.
- (b) If the thesis is submitted after three months of the thesis defense *viva voce* examination, the effective date of the degree will be the date the final thesis is submitted to the Institute.
- 11.6.4 If the thesis is accepted subject to major revisions, the student may re-submit the revised thesis to the Registrar of the Institute for re-examination after a minimum period of six months but within one year from the date of the first attempt. If the Examination Board has recommended revisions, the candidate must submit a certification from the supervisors confirming that all recommended revisions have been incorporated into the revised thesis and evidence of payment details for second attempt of the thesis defence examination. The procedures outlined in Sections 11.3 and 11.5 will then be followed, and decisions will be made accordingly.
- 11.6.5 A PhD thesis that does not meet the standards required for a PhD degree may be considered for the award of an MPhil degree during the Thesis Defence Examination. Similarly, an MPhil thesis that falls short of the required standards may be considered for the award of a Diploma. The effective date of the degree shall be determined as in 11.6.1 or 11.6.2 of the above.
- 11.6.6 If an examiner determines that a thesis is unacceptable, they must provide a written statement clearly outlining the reasons and submit it to the Director of the Institute. The examiner should also include detailed suggestions for

addressing each identified shortcoming. Based on this feedback, the Director, in consultation with the Principal Supervisor and the Board of Study, may permit the student to re-submit a revised thesis for re-evaluation by the same examiners within six (6) months from the date of notification that the thesis was deemed unacceptable.

11.6.7 In the cases outlined in 11.6.4 and 11.6.5, if the previously appointed supervisor(s) are unavailable or there is evidence of inadequate supervision, the Examination Board shall recommend to the Director the appointment of a new supervisor to guide the student in completing the revisions and resubmitting the thesis. New supervisors (if necessary) will be appointed in consultation of the Board of Study and approval of Board of Management.

11.6.8 If the corrected thesis is not submitted in bound form within the specified time frame of the respective degree, it will not be accepted.

#### 11.7 Absence for Thesis Defence Examination

11.7.1 Except for any justifiable documentary evidence(s) or on medical grounds supported by a valid medical certificate, if a student fails to attend the scheduled Thesis Defence Examination, an unsatisfactory grade will be given and it will be considered as an attempt.

### **PART12: RELEASING OF RESULTS**

12.1 The Institute shall recommend names of candidates who successfully completed the requirements of MPhil/PhD degree programmes through the Thesis Defence Examination Committee and the Board of Management to the Senate for recommendation. Results of degree programmes shall be effective only with the approval of the Council.

12.2 Provisional results shall be released upon approval by the Examiners subject to the recommendation of the Board of Management and the Senate, and approval of the Council.

### **PART13: CERTIFICATE OF DEGREE PROGRAMME**

13.1 A student who has been successful in the MPhil/PhD degree programme may obtain a provisional certificate of results from the Institute.

13.2 The printed certificates of MPhil/PhD degrees shall be awarded at the General Convocation as recommended by the Board of Management and Senate and approved by the Council of the University of Peradeniya.

### **PART 14: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

- 14.1 The Board of Management of the Institute shall appoint a three-member Dispute Settlement Committee in which one member shall be appointed from among members of the Board to inquire, settle and/or report to the Board of Management on disputes between and among students, students and teachers, students and supervisors of the Institute.
- 14.2 Given the degree of the impact on the continuity of programmes of the Institute, the Dispute Settlement Committee shall recommend measures to the Director of the Institute to resolve the matter until the committee recommendations are approved by the Board of Management.
- 14.3 Any student grievance may also be reported to the Institute's Grievance Committee.

#### **PART15: MAINTENANCE OF INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY**

- 15.1 The candidate bears full responsibility for maintaining intellectual integrity and avoiding plagiarism in the preparation of the thesis. Every candidate must be fully informed of the importance of upholding academic honesty and must refrain from all forms of plagiarism. The PGIA maintains a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism and requires all candidates to declare whether or not artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation of their thesis.
- 15.2 In case of violation of this condition the Board of Management shall recommend to the Senate to take action against such candidate according to the University rules relating to examination offenses and punishments, which could include the cancellation of registration of the candidate from further registration with the University.

#### **PART 16: STUDENT SOCIETIES OF THE INSTITUTE**

- 16.1 The registered students of the Institute with the approval of the Director of the Institute may form Student Societies at three levels: the General Student Society of the Institute, Board of Study Student Societies, and a Programme Level Student Societies.
- 16.2 The primary responsibility of a Student Society is to promote interests, rights, and needs of member students, undertake and organize events and activities facilitating interaction and harmony among students and staff, enhance learning and research opportunities for students, facilitate the Institute to connect with the industry and community and undertake stakeholder consultations and contribute to development activities of the Institute.
- 16.3 The activities, events and programmes organized by a Student Society of the Institute shall be subject to the general guidelines, directions, rules and regulations of the Institute and the University and shall require prior written approval of the Director of the Institute.

- 16.4 The Institute shall govern the activities of a student society as per Guidelines and Regulations and Terms of References approved by the Board of Management.

#### **PART 17: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE INSTITUTE**

- 17.1 The Alumni Association of the PGIA (AA-PGIA) shall be formed in order to facilitate and promote interests of alumni of the Institute and undertake and organize events and activities that enhance interactions among members of the Alumni Association, current students, and staff and resource persons of the Institute. It also help to facilitate the Institute to connect with the industry and community and undertake stakeholder consultations and contribute to research and development activities of the Institute.
- 17.2 A person who obtained postgraduate qualifications in the fields of Agriculture and Allied Fields from the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of University of Peradeniya shall be entitled to obtain the membership of the AA-PGIA on application.

#### **PART 18: INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS**

- 18.1 In these By-laws, unless the context requires otherwise,

“The Act” means the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 as subsequently amended.

“The Ordinance” means the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 and its subsequent amendments.

“The University” means the University of Peradeniya established under the University Act No.16 of 1978.

“The Council” means the council of University of Peradeniya constituted by the Universities Act No.16 of 1978 as amended subsequently.

“The Senate” means the Senate of the University of Peradeniya constituted by Universities Act No.16 of 1978 as amended subsequently.

“The Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture” means the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya established by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture Ordinance No. 9 of the 1979.

“PGIA” is an abbreviation used to refer to the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya.

“Board of Management” means the Board of Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya constituted by the PGIA Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 as amended subsequently.

“The Board of Study” means any of the Board of Study created under the PGIA, of the University of Peradeniya constituted by the PGIA Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 as amended subsequently.

“Regulations” means the General Regulations and Guidelines for Trainees and Trainers of the PGIA

An “interim supervisor” is an academic staff member appointed to guide a postgraduate research student, typically at the M.Sc., MPhil, or PhD level, at the time of initial registration, following the acceptance of the research concept note by the relevant Board of Study. This appointment is made prior to the formal nomination of a permanent supervisor(s) or the full supervisory committee. The interim supervisor is responsible for supporting the student in developing and refining the research proposal based on the approved concept note, identifying appropriate research directions and methodologies, and assisting with initial academic requirements. The role also includes ensuring academic continuity and adherence to institutional regulations during the early stages of the programme. Usually, the Interim Supervisor is appointed as the Principal Supervisor.

A “Principal Supervisor” is the primary academic staff member formally responsible for the overall supervision, guidance, and academic progress of a postgraduate research student, typically at the MSc, MPhil or PhD level. The Principal Supervisor leads the supervisory team (if applicable) and ensures that the student’s research is conducted to the required academic standards, complies with institutional and ethical guidelines, and is completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Principal supervisor is responsible for advising on research design, methodology, and implementation; monitoring the student's academic progress and providing regular feedback; supporting the development of the student’s scholarly and professional skills; coordinating communication with co-supervisors, the Board of Study, and the postgraduate institute; and guiding the student through thesis preparation, submission, and examination processes.

A “Co-Supervisor” is an academic staff member appointed to assist the Principal Supervisor in the supervision of a postgraduate research student, typically at the MPhil or PhD level. The Co-Supervisor provides complementary expertise, guidance, and support in specific aspects of the student’s research, contributing to the overall academic development and successful completion of the research project. The Principal supervisor is responsible for offering specialized knowledge in particular areas of the research; assisting in the design, execution, and evaluation of the research project; providing additional mentorship and feedback on the student’s academic progress; collaborating with the Principal Supervisor to ensure comprehensive supervisory support through supervisory committee meetings; and participating in monitoring meetings, proposal evaluations, and thesis reviews as required.

- 18.2 Any questions or clarification regarding the interpretation of these by-laws shall be referred to the Board of Management of the Institute and the Senate and the Council of the University whose decision thereon shall be final
- 18.3 Any amendments or additions to these By-Laws shall require the approval of the Board of Management of the Institute, the Senate, and the Council of the University. However, the schedule of fees may be revised independently of the By-Laws, provided such changes remain within the provisions outlined in the By-Laws.

**Annex 1**



For office use only:  
Application No:

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSIONS**

**Academic year – 2024/25 (Peradeniya / Colombo Intake)**

**IMPORTANT:**

- Only certified photocopies of the Birth Certificate, educational and professional qualifications, degree certificate, detailed certificate, or course completion certificate, along with the payment receipt for the application processing fee (LKR 3,000.00), must be sent by registered post to the Deputy Registrar, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, P.O. Box 55, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya.
- Students applying for the M.Phil. or Ph.D. program must submit a concept note using the Annex 2: Template for Submission of Research Concept Note along with their application. The concept note should include details on the research funding source.
- The official transcript must be sent directly to the PGIA by the university where the applicant obtained their Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification.
- Applicants awaiting their final results may apply with an official document issued by the Dean/Registrar of their university or institute.
- Government department employees and permanent employees of corporations must submit their applications through the head of their respective institute or corporation. (The Employer Consent Form should be sent separately.)

If you are unable to submit all relevant documents by deadline, kindly submit the application and payment receipt together with the available documents and remaining documents to be submitted within two weeks.

<b>1. Name in Full:</b> Rev./Mr./Miss./Mrs./Dr.	
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<b>2. Name with initials:</b> Rev./Mr./Miss./Mrs./Dr.	
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Note: Your name must match the name on your Bachelor's degree certificate and Birth Certificate. Please note that this will be the name displayed on your postgraduate degree certificate.

<b>3. National ID No:/ Passport No:</b>				
<b>4. Date of Birth :</b>				
<b>5. Place of Birth :</b>				
<b>6. Nationality :</b>				
<b>7. Gender :</b>	Male		Female	

<b>8. Home address:</b>	
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<b>Home Contac Details</b>	Home telephone: Home mobile: Personal email:
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9. <b>Official address:</b>	
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<b>Official Contac Details</b>	Official telephone: Official mobile: Official email:
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10. <b>Address for correspondence (Home/Official):</b>	
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Note: Registrar should be informed immediately of any changes in contact details.

11. <b>Present employment (Name of designation):</b>	
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<b>Name and address of employer</b>	
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12. <b>Employment Records</b> (List your most recent position first)				
Name and address of employer	Position/Rank	Period		Nature of Duty
		From	To	

13. <b>Educational Qualifications</b> (Copies of certificate/s should be attached)					
University / Institute	From	To	Degree	Field	Class

14. <b>List of Publications:</b>	1. 2. 3.
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15. <b>Other Qualifications</b> (Fellowships, scholarships, awards, membership in professional bodies etc.)
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol> |
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**16. Proposed Program of Study:**

*Note: All Master's programs are one-year, 30-credit taught courses, including a 5-credit Directed Study. All M.Sc. programs span two years, totaling 60 credits, with a minimum 15-credit research component.*

<b>Board of Study</b>	<b>Degree Program</b>	<b>Tick only ONE (01) Program</b>
Agricultural Biology	Master of Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding	
	M.Sc. in Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding	
	Master of Biotechnology	
	M.Sc. in Biotechnology	
	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Agricultural Economics	Master of Agricultural Economics	
	M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics	
	Master of Environmental Economics	
	M.Sc. in Environmental Economics	
	Master of Natural Resource Management	
	M.Sc. in Natural Resource Management	
	M.Phil.	
Ph. D.		
Agricultural Engineering	Master of Agricultural and Bio-Systems Engineering	
	M.Sc. in Agricultural and Bio-Systems Engineering	
	Master of Geo-Informatics	
	M.Sc. in Geo-Informatics	
	Master of Integrated Water Resources Management	
	M.Sc. in Integrated Water Resources Management	
	M.Phil.	
Ph. D.		
Agricultural Extension	Master of Development Communication & Extension	
	M.Sc. in Development Communication & Extension	
	Master of Organizational Management	
	M.Sc. in Organizational Management	
	M.Phil.	
Animal Science	Ph.D.	
	Master of Animal Science	
	M.Sc. in Animal Science	
	Master of Aquatic Bio-Resources Mgt. & Aquaculture	

	M.Sc. in Aquatic Bio-Resources Mgt. & Aquaculture	
	Master of Dairy & Meat Product Technology	
	M.Sc. in Dairy & Meat Product Technology	
	Master of Poultry Science & Technology	
	M.Sc. in Poultry Science & Technology	
	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Biostatistics	Master of Applied Statistics	
	M.Sc. in Applied Statistics	
	Master of Bio-Statistics	
	M.Sc. in Bio-Statistics	
	PG Diploma in Applied Statistics	
	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Business Administration	Master of Business Administration	
	Master of Business Administration	
	DBA	
	Ph. D.	
Crop Science	Master of Crop Science	
	M.Sc. in Crop Science	
	Master of Environmental Forestry	
	M.Sc. in Environmental Forestry	
	Master of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture	
	M.Sc. in Floriculture and Landscape Architecture	
	Master of Tropical Agriculture	
	M.Sc. in Tropical Agriculture	
	Master of Plantation Crop Management	
	M.Sc. in Plantation Crop Management	
	Master of Horticulture	
	M.Sc. in Horticulture	
	Master of Agroecology	
	M.Sc. in Agroecology	
	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Food Science & Technology	Master of Food & Nutrition	
	M.Sc. in Food & Nutrition	
	Master of Food Science & Technology	
	M.Sc. in Food Science & Technology	
	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Plant Protection	Master of Molecular and Applied Microbiology	
	M.Sc. in Molecular and Applied Microbiology	
	Master of Plant Protection Technology	
	M.Sc. in Plant Protection Technology	

	M.Phil.	
	Ph. D.	
Soil Science	Master of Environmental Soil Science	
	M.Sc. in Environmental Soil Science	
	Master of Topical Soil Management	
	M.Sc. in Topical Soil Management	
	Master of Soil & Environmental Microbiology	
	M.Sc. in Soil & Environmental Microbiology	
	M. Phil.	
	Ph. D.	

<b>17. References:</b> (Give names and addresses of two referees, at least one of whom should have been your lecturer at the University)	
<b>Referee 1</b>	<b>Referee 2</b>
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Email:	Email:
Contact No:	Contact No:

**Note:** The enclosed referee report forms should be provided to the referees listed above. Referees must send their completed reports directly to the Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, under confidential cover. If the sealed reports are handed to you personally, they must be either hand-delivered or posted to the PGIA.

<b>18. Source of Funding for Postgraduate Studies</b> (please specify):
Self funded / From a Scholarship (specify) / Grant (specify) / Any other (specify)

<b>19. Documents Submitted with this Application</b>	
<b>Before sending this application, please check that you have attached the following documents</b>	<b>Tick if attached</b>
a) Completed Application Form with Signature	
b) Curriculum Vitae of Applicant	
c) Certified copy of Birth Certificate	
d) Certified copy of National Identity Card	
e) Certified copies of the Educational Certificate/s	
f) Certified copies of Certificates of Professional Qualification/s	
g) Academic Transcript/s – Should be directly sent to the Registrar of PGIA	
h) Certified copies of any other relevant document/s (please list)	
i) Concept Note of Research as of Annex 2	

j) Two recent passport-size colour photographs	
k) Two Referees Report as of Annex 3	
l) Letter of permission from the employer/Head of the Institute and/or a service/employment certificate from the employer	
m) The receipt of bank payment of the application fee	

Note: State NR, if it is not relevant.

<p>I hereby declare that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also confirm that I am not registered for any postgraduate degree program at any university in Sri Lanka at the time of this application. If selected for the program, I agree to comply with all applicable regulations of the institute.</p>	
Date:	Signature:

**The Following Sections are to be filled by relevant officers of the PGIA:**

<p>The application is reviewed for completeness based on a checklist and identified to be suitable for forwarding to the Secretary of the Board of Study.</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Name and Signature of the Officer of the Admission Branch:</p>
--

<p>The Board of Study has reviewed the application and provided a recommendation to accept/reject it for registration at the M.Phil. / Ph.D. level.</p> <p>Requirement of an Admission Interview (Please Specify):</p> <p>Coursework requirement/s (if Any, please specify):</p> <p>Other Requirements (please specify):</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Name and Signature of the Secretary/Chairperson of the Board of Study</p>
--



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE**

**Name of the Applicant:**

**Registration No:**

**Degree Sought:**

**Board of Study:**

**1. Tentative Title of the Research:**

**2. Background and Aims:** (maximum of 350 words)

- a. A brief background on the research including the research problem that the proposed study aims to address
- b. Purpose/Aims of the research

**3. Project Description:** (maximum 300 words)

**4. Expected Outputs/Outcomes:** (maximum 200 words)

**5. Relevance of the Proposed Study to the respective Board of Study:** (maximum 150 words):

**6. List of References cited in the text:** (please use APA referencing style):

**7. Tentative Total Budget and Source(s) of Funding:** (using maximum of two lines)

**8. Declaration on Guidance Received for Developing the Research Concept Note:**

**Annex 3**



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
REFEREE'S REPORT FORM**

**SECTION 'A'**

*(This section should be completed and signed by applicant before sending to the referee)*

**Name of Applicant:** .....

**Identity Card Number:** .....

**Board of Study:** .....

**Phone:** .....

**E-mail:** .....

**Proposed Postgraduate Program** (ticking (v) the box)

Master		M.Sc.		MBA		M.Phil.		DBA		Ph.D.	
--------	--	-------	--	-----	--	---------	--	-----	--	-------	--

I, ..... hereby waive my right of access to this reference report.

.....  
Signature of Applicant

Date: .....

**SECTION 'B'**

*(to be completed by the Referee)*

**Name of Referee:** .....

**Designation and Institution:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Phone:** .....

**E-mail:** .....

How do you know the applicant? Please select the appropriate option(s) by ticking (v) the box(es).

This student was enrolled in my undergraduate course(s)	
This student was enrolled in my postgraduate course(s)	
I served as this student's undergraduate advisor or project/research advisor	
I supervised or directed the applicant's work for ..... years as employee	
I have not taught the applicant; however, I have known the person for ..... years	
I do not know this individual well enough to provide an evaluation	

We are seeking insights into the applicant's suitability for an academic program. Please assess their relevant experience and skills by ticking (v) the box that best represents your opinion. Compare the applicant with a representative group of students you have known who are similarly qualified for graduate study and possess comparable experience and training.

	Excellent (top 10%)	Very Good	Average	Below Average	Unable to Evaluate
Ability to master academic work					
Ability in oral and written expression in English					
Ability to organize workload					
Ability to do independent and collaborative work					
Emotional stability and maturity					
Critical thinking, data analysis and creativity					

Please indicate (v) where the applicant would rank among the students currently in your Department/Institution:

Top 1%		Top 5%		Top 10%		Top 25%		Other	
--------	--	--------	--	---------	--	---------	--	-------	--

Please indicate your overall evaluation of the applicant:

Strongly Recommended		Recommended with Reservation	
Recommended		Not Recommended	

Signature of the Referee with official frank: .....

Date: .....

Kindly place the confidential report in the provided envelope, seal it, and sign across the seal. The signed envelope can either be given to the applicant to include with their application or mailed directly to the address provided below. **Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, P.O. Box 55, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya**





**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**  
P.O. BOX 55, PERADENIYA 20400, SRI LANKA

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION FORM**  
**(TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE SUPERVISOR/S OF POSTGRADUATE DEGREES)**

Name of the supervisor with initials: (Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms):

Name of the student with Initials:

The degree registered:

Board of Study:

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have no interests that may conflict with my responsibilities as a postgraduate supervisor for the research study of the above-named student.

Signature:

Date:

**OR**

I hereby declare that I have conflict of Interest for the above mentioned student and therefore please relinquish me from any supervisory duties affecting the same student.

Signature:

Date:

---

*\*Delete the lines which are unnecessary*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE DECLARATION FORM**

I am in receipt of the above declaration form signed by *(name of the supervisor)* as a postgraduate supervisor of the PGIA on *(date)*

Signature of the Deputy Registrar/PGIA

Annex 5



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**STUDENT REQUEST FORM**

Please provide all information concisely. Once completed, please email it to [dir@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dir@pgia.ac.lk) or [dr@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dr@pgia.ac.lk) or [infor@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:infor@pgia.ac.lk), or send it by post to the Deputy Registrar, PGIA.

<b>Name</b>	<b>(Rev./Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.)</b>
<b>Registration No</b>	
<b>Board of Study</b>	
<b>Degree Programme</b>	
<b>Contact Phone No.</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Senior Supervisor (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Request (<i>underline, or highlight the relevant point</i>)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of Board of Study</li> <li>• Change of Degree Program</li> <li>• Upgrading the Program</li> <li>• Downgrading the Program</li> <li>• Makeup Examination</li> <li>• Comprehensive Examination</li> <li>• Exemption of Courses</li> <li>• Appointment of Supervisors for Directed Study</li> <li>• Appointment of Supervisors for Research Projects</li> <li>• Refund of Course Fee</li> <li>• Submission of Medical Report</li> <li>• Deferment of Degree Program</li> <li>• Leave of Absence</li> <li>• Any Other (Please Specify)</li> </ul>
<b>Reason for the above request</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Name of the Applicant:

Registration No:

Degree Sought:

Interim Supervisor:

Board of Study:

**Your research proposal must concisely address the following points under separate headings.**

**It is recommended to use this format and word document when preparing your proposal.**

**9. Title of the Research:**

*(Outline the proposed topic of your study)*

**10. Research Problem:**

*(Briefly explain the research problem/gap that the proposed study aims to address using a maximum of 250 words and explain why it is important)*

**11. Background/Introduction:**

*(should be supported by systematic review of relevant literature)*

**12. General and Specific Objectives:**

**13. Materials & Methods / Methodology:**

*(Explain experimental design, experimental sites, sample collection and analysis, methods of*

*data analysis and overview of the methodology you intend to use in your study)*

**14. Timeline of the Research Work According to the Objectives / Gantt Chart:**

*(Indicate activities related to research and time allocated to complete each activity as study plan)*

**15. Resources Needs and Tentative Budget and Source(s) of Funding:**

*(Briefly outline resources needs the expected costs and how you aim to cover these)*

**16. Expected Outputs/Outcomes of the Research:**

**17. List of References Cited:**

*(use APA referencing style)*

**18. Endorsement from the Interim Supervisor:**

The proposal has been prepared in consultation with me as the interim supervisor.

Date:

Signature

**19. Decision of the Board of Study**

The proposal has been: Accepted / Accepted with minor revisions / Accepted with major revisions / Rejected.

Recommended to commence the research programme / Requested for resubmission for further evaluation.

Date:

Signature of the Chairperson/Secretary Annex 7 rd



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**GUIDELINE TO EVALUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Name of Student:**

**Registration Number:**

**Degree Program:**

**Board of Study:**

**Title of the Proposal:**

**Interim Supervisor:**

Please evaluate the proposal and presentation as per the following guidelines and submit it to the Secretary / BS.

Title of Research	Revealed the content	
	Need to be revised	
	If revision is needed, suggestion/s for new Title	

Introduction	Sufficient	
	Need improvements	
	Suggestion/s for Improvement	

Justification	Sufficient	
	Need further expansion	
	Suggestion/s for Improvement	

--	--

Clarity of objectives and relevance	Sufficiently elaborated	
	Need further improvement	
	Suggestion/s for Improvement	

Literature review	Relevant / Sufficient	
	Need further improvement	
	Suggestion/s for Improvement	

Materials & Methods / Methodology	Clearly presented /described	
	Need further expansion	
	Suggestion/s for Improvement	
	Material:	
	Treatments:	
	Design:	
	Data collection:	
	Statistical analysis:	

--	--

Activity Plan	Remarks
---------------	---------

References	Remarks
------------	---------

General comments:  Presentation skill:  Communication skill:  Time management:
--

The Proposal is accepted as it is / with minor / major corrections / not accepted.

.....  
Name of Evaluator

.....  
Signature of Evaluator

Date: .....



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISION OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES**

**Introduction**

Supervision is a cornerstone of postgraduate research training. Supervisors must model excellence, integrity, professionalism, and mutual respect, thereby creating a research culture rooted in ethical conduct and academic rigor. In parallel, postgraduate students are expected to commit to their research responsibilities with integrity, diligence, and professionalism.

**1. Responsibilities of the Institute**

- 1.1. Assess applicants' eligibility and intellectual preparedness for research programs in consultation with the relevant Board of Study.
- 1.2. Appoint an interim supervisor to guide the student in preparing a comprehensive research proposal.
- 1.3. Upon approval of the proposal, recommend the formation of a Supervisory Committee comprising at least two members—one serving as Senior Supervisor and the other as Co-supervisor—subject to the endorsement of the Board of Management, the Senate, and the Council.
- 1.4. Include external experts in the Supervisory Committee when the student is affiliated with another institution or organization.
- 1.5. Provide all research students with the applicable regulations and guidelines, including the Student Handbook, Prospectus, and relevant by-laws, at the beginning of the program.
- 1.6. Ensure that progress review meetings are conducted biannually in accordance with the PGIA Academic Calendar.
- 1.7. Ensure the availability and engagement of supervisors for the full duration of the student's program.

**2. Guidelines for the Selection of Supervisors**

- 2.1. Supervisors must be academically qualified, competent, and active in the proposed research area.
- 2.2. At least one supervisor must be a member of the Faculty Board of Agriculture and part of the relevant teaching panel.

- 2.3. Supervisors should hold a research degree equivalent to or higher than the degree sought. Exceptionally, individuals without such a degree may qualify based on a strong track record of quality publications and citations in indexed journals.

### **3. Responsibilities of Supervisors**

Supervisors are key to guiding students through all stages of research. They must:

- 3.1. Uphold professional ethics, objectivity, and maintain appropriate supervisory relationships.
- 3.2. Guide students in selecting a viable research topic, preparing a proposal using the PGIA template, and obtaining necessary approvals.
- 3.3. Facilitate respectful, inclusive, and productive supervisory interactions.
- 3.4. Ensure research is conducted using appropriate methodologies as approved in the proposal.
- 3.5. Encourage engagement with literature, seminars, expert consultations, and other professional development opportunities.
- 3.6. Recommend supplementary coursework to bridge knowledge gaps.
- 3.7. Hold scheduled meetings—monthly in the first year, and at least once every three months thereafter—to monitor progress and encourage independent research capacity.
- 3.8. Document and monitor progress, guiding corrections and adjustments where necessary.
- 3.9. Ensure submission of progress reports every six months using the “PGIA Progress Report Format.”
- 3.10. Inform the Board of Study of any significant challenges affecting supervision.
- 3.11. Make suitable interim supervisory arrangements during periods of absence; for absences longer than three months, request appointment of a replacement by the Board of Study.
- 3.12. Encourage students to publish research findings and fulfill the publication requirement prior to thesis submission.
- 3.13. Ensure students follow ethical research practices and obtain necessary ethical and institutional approvals.
- 3.14. Support dissemination of research findings through presentations and publications, helping students build confidence and communication skills.
- 3.15. Instruct students on thesis preparation and ensure timely submission according to the “Instructions for Preparation of M.Sc./M.Phil./Ph.D. Theses.”

**Note:** Co-supervisors provide complementary expertise and assist the main supervisor. Their responsibilities should be defined in the student’s PhD plan.

### **4. Responsibilities of Postgraduate Students**

Research students are responsible for maintaining high standards of professionalism, actively engaging with their supervisors, and adhering to all institutional guidelines. Students are expected to:

- 4.1. Obtain and familiarize themselves with the “Guidelines for Supervision of Postgraduate Research” and all related institutional policies at registration.
- 4.2. Develop a robust and innovative research proposal in consultation with the interim supervisor.

- 4.3. Present the proposal to the Board of Study and secure ethical clearance, where applicable.
- 4.4. Uphold ethical standards throughout the research process.
- 4.5. Understand available institutional facilities and use them responsibly.
- 4.6. Maintain professional relationships with supervisors, academic staff, and fellow students.
- 4.7. Submit all required progress reports and documents on time.
- 4.8. Participate in seminars, workshops, and conferences; disseminate findings through peer-reviewed publications.
- 4.9. Fulfill all academic requirements, including thesis submission within the stipulated period.
- 4.10. Attend Research Progress Review Meetings as scheduled by the Board of Study.

## Annex 9



### POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

#### ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH SUPERVISORS

The following ethical guidelines aim to uphold the highest ethical standards in research supervision, fostering a respectful, fair, and productive academic environment at the PGIA.

1. **Encouraging Free Expression:** Supervisors should foster an environment that encourages and facilitates the free exchange of ideas. They must respect students' freedom to hold and express opinions, ensuring their feedback does not intimidate or discourage students.
2. **Promoting Fairness and Honesty:** Supervisors must be fair and nurture a culture of honest academic conduct, setting an example through their actions.
3. **Demonstrating Fairness and Impartiality:** Supervisors should explicitly display fairness, especially in managing time for consultations, addressing attendance issues, and forming learning groups in class.
4. **Addressing Plagiarism:** In cases of plagiarism in concept papers or research reports, supervisors should adhere to the Plagiarism Policy of the University of Peradeniya.
5. **Ensuring Non-Discrimination:** Supervisors must avoid discrimination based on ethnicity, race, caste, colour, religion, place of origin, language, or gender.
6. **Preventing Sexual Harassment:** Supervisors must avoid any form of sexual harassment, including unwelcome sexual attention, remarks, or behaviour that creates a hostile or uncomfortable environment. They should also educate students on identifying and avoiding such behaviours. Supervisors should adhere to the Policy on Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence of University of Peradeniya.
7. **Respecting Academic Integrity:** Supervisors should uphold the dignity and worth of advancing knowledge, remain truthful in their scholarly pursuits, and dedicate substantial time to research supervision.
8. **Encouraging Knowledge Dissemination:** Supervisors should guide students to publish their research in reputable and Publications in SCI or SSCI or expanded or emerging SCI or Scopus journal or present at credible conferences. They may agree to delay publication for a reasonable time in cases of sponsored or contract research.

9. **Acknowledging Funding Sources:** Supervisors must disclose all funding sources supporting their research and avoid accepting funds that compromise the integrity of their scholarly work.
10. **Maintaining Research Integrity:** Supervisors should not engage in research fraud or misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. Honest errors or differences in interpretation are part of the academic process.
11. **Clarifying Authorship and Data Ownership:** Supervisors and students must explicitly discuss authorship, copyright, and data ownership. A written agreement on these aspects should be filed with the Director before starting research.
12. **Avoiding Exploitation:** Supervisors should not exploit student work for personal gain.
13. **Ensuring Ethical Practices:** Supervisors must guide students to obtain ethical clearance and to inform survey participants about the study's objectives, obtain their consent, and avoid recording opinions or expressions electronically without explicit permission.
14. **Obtaining Permission for Information Use:** Supervisors should secure necessary permissions for using data, reports, images, or other materials in research. Names of individuals, organizations, or projects should only be included with prior consent.
15. **Protecting Confidential Sources:** Supervisors must safeguard the confidentiality of sources, ensuring that identities are not disclosed without explicit consent.

## Annex 10



### STUDENT-SUPERVISOR AGREEMENT ON POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

#### **Responsibilities of Supervisors**

1. To ensure that the students adhere to the regulations of the study program throughout the period of study.
2. To guide the students to select a research topic and develop a comprehensive research proposal and obtain approval from the Board of Study and the Board of Management.
3. To guide the students to conduct the research program maintaining the quality standards of research using appropriate methodologies for data collection and analysis, as specified in the proposal approved by the Board of study.
4. To promote the students furthering knowledge and skills through relevant literature searches, attending seminars and conferences and meeting with other staff knowledgeable in the selected research topic.
5. Advise the student to take courses to fill knowledge gaps in the proposed research.
6. To have discussions with the student on a fixed schedule in the first year at least monthly and from second year every three months intervals to make the student gradually independent.
7. To monitor the progress regularly and document it, and guide students make corrections where necessary to achieve the set objectives of the research.
8. To ensure that the students submit progress reports in 6-month intervals through the supervisors to the Boards of Study.
9. Inform the Institute/Board of Study of any constraints/problems in the process of supervision.
10. To make interim arrangements if the supervisor plans to take leave for a period of more than 3 months.
11. To encourage the students to publish the findings in a referred journals for enhancing writing skills and gain credibility and confidence at the thesis defense examination.
12. To ensure that student fulfill minimum publication requirement at the thesis submission.
13. Instruct the students to prepare the thesis on “Instructions for the preparation of

M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. Thesis” provided by the institute and submit on due date.

14. Always adhere to ethical standards of research.

I have read the above and agree to the provisions set forth in this agreement.

Name of the Supervisor :

Designation of the Supervisor :

Signature of the Supervisor :

Date :

### **Responsibilities of Postgraduate Students**

1. Every student should obtain a copy of the responsibilities of postgraduate students in the “Guidelines for supervision of postgraduate research” at the time of registration for the degree and become familiar with the procedures governing the award of postgraduate degrees of the institute.
2. Should develop an innovative research proposal in consultation with the interim supervisor.
3. Obtain ethical clearance from the appropriate body affiliate to the institute if necessary.
4. Always adhere to the accepted research ethics.
5. Should become familiar with the availability of research facilities for the proposed research.
6. Should maintain cordial relations with the supervisors, technical staff and other research students of the Institute.
7. Submit biannual progress reports and other documents as may be required by the supervisors/ Institute/ Board of Study at the stipulated time period.
8. Present the research findings at seminars/workshops and publish the research findings in referred journals.
9. Ensure that the all requirements for the degree are satisfied and the thesis is submitted at the stipulated time.
10. Should participate for Research Progress Review Meetings scheduled by the relevant Board of Study as per the Calendar of dates of the Institute.

I have read the above and agree to the provisions set forth in this agreement.

Name of the Student :

Signature of the Student :

Date :

**Annex 11**



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**RESEARCH STUDENT SUPERVISION RECORD FORM  
(to be completed by the student)**

<b>Name of Student</b>	<b>(Rev./Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.)</b>
<b>Registration No</b>	
<b>Board of Study</b>	
<b>Degree Program</b>	
<b>Title of Research Program</b>	
<b>Earliest Possible Submission Date of Thesis</b>	
<b>Date of Supervision Meeting</b>	
<b>Date of the Next Meeting Proposed</b>	
<b>Supervisory Team Members Present at the Meeting</b>	
<b>Student update and comment on their progress</b>	
<b>Subjects and Topics Discussed</b>	
<b>Identification of Any Issues Faced</b>	
<b>Actions for Student:</b> [include targets set till the next meeting]	

<p><b>Recommendations made (to be completed by the Supervisor)</b></p>   
<p><b>Research Training Suggested for the Student (to be completed by the Supervisor)</b>  [include research training programs been discussed, details of training needs, details on how training needs are to be addressed, and by whom]</p>   

*Note: At least 10 meetings between research students and their supervisors per annum for full-time students and at least 6 formal meetings per annum for part-time students shall be conducted*

**Confirmation from Student, Supervisor and the Board of Study**

Student's Signature

Date:

Supervisor's Signature

Date:

Secretary of the Board of Study

Date:

Annex 12



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT SUBMISSION FORM**

All postgraduate students registered for research degrees (M.Phil./Ph.D.) are required to submit a formal written progress report on their research every six months. The report must be submitted to the PGIA office through their supervisor(s), using the prescribed form (Annex 12).

**Submission deadlines are as follows:**

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June: 15<sup>th</sup> July**

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December: 15<sup>th</sup> January of the following year**

1. Name of Student:	
2. Board of Study:	
3. Degree Registered for:	
4. Registration No:	
5. Date of Registration:	
6. Date of Commencement of the Research Component	
7. Title of the Research Project	
8.1 Name of Senior Supervisors	
8.2. Name of Supervisor	
8.3. Name of Supervisor	
8.4. Name of Supervisor	
8.5. Name of Supervisor	
9. Course work requirement/s completed (if any, please specify)	

10. Studentship/Scholarship (please specify, if any)	
--	--

Note: (a) Cages 1-9 above to be completed by the Student whereas the row below will be completed by the Board of Study

- **Section 1 to be completed by the student**
- **Section 2 to be completed by the Supervisors**
- **Section 3 to be completed by the Director**

(b) The student must forward the completed report in duplicate to the Director/PGIA through the Secretary of the Board of Study.

**SECTION 1: PROGRESS REPORT (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT)**

Report No	
-----------	--

Period Covered	From	To
----------------	------	----

**Description of Progress:** *(The report should cover the following aspects: (i) Introduction; (ii) Research Methodology; (iii) Results and Discussion; (iv) Future Directions; (v) References etc.)*

**Publications/Patents Resulted from the Project:**

(At the Thesis defense examination, a Ph.D./DBA student should have published a minimum of two research papers, a M.Phil. student should have published a minimum of one research paper and submitted a minimum of one other research paper and a M.Sc./MBA (Course work & Research) student should have submitted a minimum of one research paper)

Signature of students:

**Observation of the Board of Study**

Date received:

Signature:

Chairperson/Secretary of the Board of Study

**SECTION 2: COMMENTS ON THE WORK DONE (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SUPERVISORS)**

**Description of Progress:**

1. The Progress of the student is given below (*please mark by a "x"*).

Category	Excellent	Good	Poor
Research work (If necessary, please attach a separate report as mentioned under Section 1 above)			
Research communication and research publication			
Preparation of thesis			
Attendance at supervisory meetings, discussions/ progress review meetings			
Enthusiasm and leadership on research			
Any other ( <i>please specify</i> )			

2. Progress regarding fulfilment of course work requirement (*please note that the course work requirement has to be fulfilled within two years after registration*)

Period	Course work completed
First six months	
Second six month	





**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**GUIDELINES FOR PROGRESS REPORT PRESENTATIONS**

Objective: The progress report presentation provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their research progress, receive constructive feedback, and ensure alignment with their academic goals and timelines.

**1. General Requirements**

Frequency: Every six months, as per the academic calendar.

Duration: Presentation: 15-20 minutes for M.Phil. students; 20-25 minutes for Ph.D. students.

Discussion/Q&A: 10-15 minutes.

Mode: In-person; online is possible only on request with a valid reason approved by Supervisors.

**2. Content of the Presentation**

MPhil and PhD students should structure their presentation as follows:

Title Slide: Research title, Student name and registration number, Supervisor(s) and co-supervisor(s)

Introduction: Brief overview of the research problem

Objectives of the study: Research questions/hypotheses

Literature Review (if applicable): Key findings from the literature, Gaps identified, Relevance to the current study

Methodology: Description of methods and techniques; Study area, experimental design, or analytical framework; Any adjustments made to initial methodologies

Progress Achieved (So Far): Research activities completed in the last six months; Key results (if applicable); Data collection/analysis milestones; Challenges and Mitigations

Any issues encountered: Actions taken to address them

Next Steps: Planned activities for the next six months

Anticipated timelines for completion of specific tasks

Acknowledgments

Recognize funding sources, collaborators, or any institutional support.

### **3. Presentation Guidelines**

Slides should be concise and visually appealing, with minimal text.

Speak clearly and maintain a logical flow.

Avoid excessive technical jargon unless explaining terms.

Adhere to the allocated time for the presentation and Q&A.

### **4. Submission Requirements**

Submit a soft copy of the presentation to your supervisor and evaluation panel at least three days before the presentation.

### **5. Evaluation Criteria**

Progress presentations will be assessed on: Content quality (Depth and clarity of research progress and plans); Methodological rigor (Adherence to research protocols and problem-solving ability); Presentation skills (Clarity, engagement, and professional demeanor); Future planning (Realistic and well-defined next steps).

### **6. Feedback and Follow-Up**

The evaluation panel will provide constructive feedback and suggestions.

Incorporate the feedback into your research work and future presentations.

### **7. Administrative Notes**

Ensure the presentation aligns with the submission deadlines. Coordinate with the relevant Board of Study and PGIA for logistical arrangements (e.g., presentation venue or virtual meeting setup). For further clarification, contact the Deputy Registrar or the Director of the Postgraduate Institute.

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**



**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION  
OF  
M.Sc., M.Phil. AND Ph.D. THESIS**

**2025**

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**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF  
M.Sc., M.Phil. AND Ph.D. THESIS**

**1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Every candidate applying for a Degree of **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** shall submit a thesis embodying the research giving evidence of the originality, ability of independent critical analysis and discovery of new facts.

The candidates applying for the Degree of **Master of Science (M.Sc.)** and **Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)** shall submit a thesis to include results of research which gives an indication of the student's ability to conduct research with some supervision.

- A candidate should include his/ her list of publications resulted during the degree programme at the end of appendices and should annex any of his/her research if already published in journals as supporting documents confirming his ability to interpret, analyze and present scientific papers.
- Any candidate who successfully completes the degree program and intends to publish the thesis or a part of it is required to obtain permission in writing from the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA).

***Note: Students are requested to consult his/her supervisor and Chairperson of the Board of Study before commencing the preparation of the thesis.***

**2. SUBMISSION OF THE THESIS**

Copies of the final draft of the thesis (Ph.D- 03 copies) and (M.Sc. / M.Phil- 02 copies) shall in the first instance be submitted by the candidate to the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture. As the Examination Committee may suggest revisions in the content of the thesis, these copies shall be unbound but paginated. Student should submit the thesis for evaluation along with the filled application for thesis defence examination which is available in the PGIA office/website.

When the thesis has been accepted by the Examination Committee and corrected or revised satisfactorily, two (02) bound copies of the thesis shall be submitted by the candidate to the Director of the Institute for the signatures of the Examination Committee. One copy shall become the property of the institute, while the second copy will be returned to the candidate.

At the same time, the candidate should submit 2 CDs to the PGIA. One CD should include, Abstract (specimen 14.7) and [Title+ Abstract (specimen 14.6) +Thesis] as PDF files which will be sent to the Library. The other CD should include 3 page document which include a Photograph of the student, Name, Degree, Address, Telephone No., Title, Senior Supervisor/Supervisors in the first page, a summary in 200 words in the second page and a summary of the research in laymen language in the third page which will be used for Newsletter/PGIA.

## **2.1 Copyright**

The thesis becomes the property of the institute, but abstracting journals may reprint abstracts or translations of them provided that written permission has been taken from the Director of the institute.

## **3. CONTENT OF THE THESIS**

**3.1 Title Page for M.Sc./M.Phil/PhD Degrees:** The title of the thesis should be short, concise, informative and descriptive of the research done and it should be displayed at the top of the title page. The title should be presented in bold, uppercase letters and center aligned. If the title includes any scientific names of organisms, they should be written in lower case italics, except for the first letter of the genus which is capitalized.

The title page includes the Title of the thesis (M.Sc./M.Phil/ Ph.D) candidate's full name in bold, the Degree for which the candidate is submitting the thesis, the name of the institute and the month and year of submission.

(Specimens 14.1, 14.2.a, 14.2.b & 14.3)

**3.2 Signature page:** should indicate the approvals of the examiners and the Director of the Institute.

(Both the title page and the signature page should be obtained from the office of the Director).

(Specimen 14.4)

**3.3 Declaration Page:** The thesis should have a **Declaration** signed by the candidate and certified by his/her supervisor/s and the Director of the institute. The declaration should have the PGIA date stamp both at the initial and final submission of the thesis.

(Specimen 14.5)

**3.4 Abstract Page:** An abstract of the thesis of not more than six hundred words should be included in the thesis and the typing should be with 1.5 line spacing (Specimen 14.6)

Abstract for CD should include the Title of the project, candidate's name, PGIA affiliation and address. The abstract should not exceed 350 words and typed single spaced on a single page and preferably as a single paragraph. Abstract should outline the justification, methodologies

used, significant findings and conclusions. Keywords can be included at the end of the Abstract (Specimen 14.6 & Specimen 14.7)

**3.5 Acknowledgement/s:** The candidate shall state under the Acknowledgement/s any assistance obtained from others such as in designing and conduct of experiments, construction of apparatus, calibration of equipment, data analysis, guidance and supervision in the preparation of the thesis and any sources from which financial support have been received for the research project .

#### **4. PAPER AND PRINTING**

##### **4.1 Type of paper to be used**

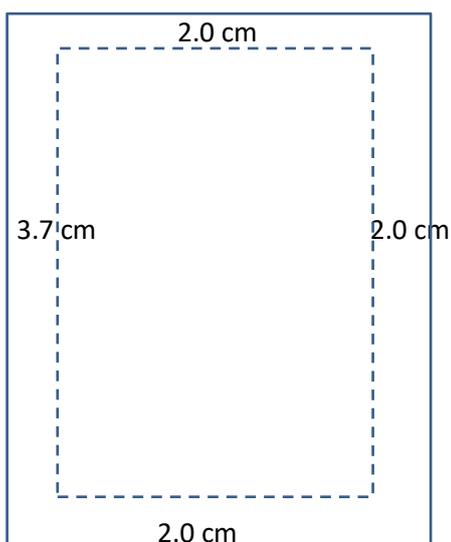
Clear white good quality A4 size (210 mm x 297 mm) paper having at least 80 gsm should be used for the final two copies of the thesis. Only one type of paper should be used throughout the thesis, however papers of different quality and sizes may be used for illustrations, maps etc. as may be necessary. Photographic plates are allowed for charts and diagrams.

##### **4.2 Printing**

All pages of the thesis should be computer printed only on one side of the page using Times New Roman (font size 12) with 1.5 line spacing.

##### **4.3 Margins of pages**

The margins of each page should be maintained as follows: left - 3.7 cm, right 2.0 cm, top 2.0 cm and bottom 2.0 cm.



**4.4 Cover page:** Official copies of the thesis should have a green hard bound outer cover with title, authors' full name and year printed in gold. The cover of the thesis should stand at 21.5 cm x 30.2 cm in the finally bound position.

(Specimen 14.9) (Times New Roman, font size 14)

**4.5 Spine :** The spine of the hard bound copy of the thesis should carry the name of the candidate with initials, name of the degree and the year of award, from bottom upwards in that order leaving 2.5 cm space on either end.

(Specimen 14.10) (Times New Roman font size 12)

*(Rexene for binding is available in the Office of the Director of the institute).*

#### 4.6 Numbering of pages

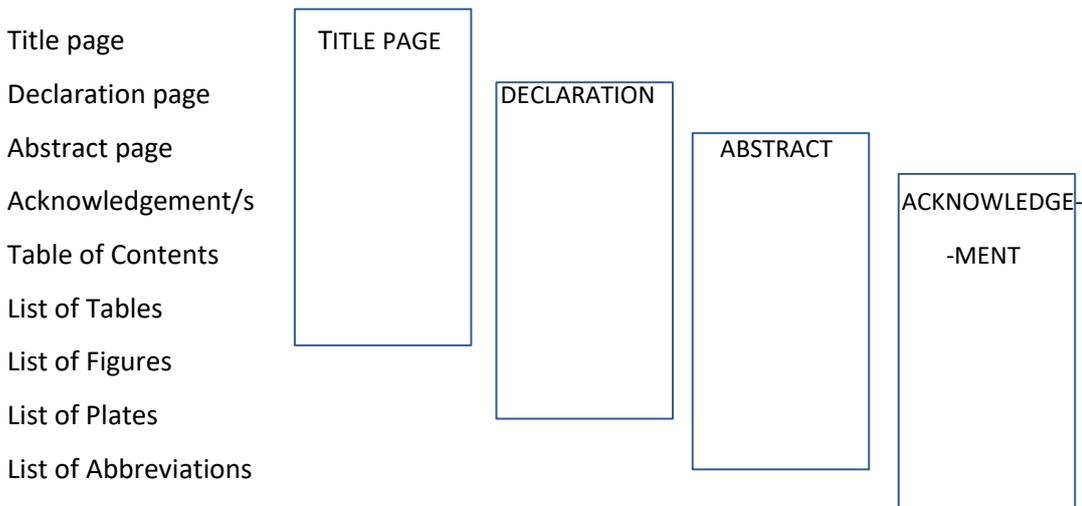
***Each page in the thesis should be numbered in consecutive order including illustrative material.***

From Abstract to the Appendices (Abstract, Acknowledgements, Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, List of Plates and List of Abbreviations) should be numbered single-line using lower case in Roman numerals at the top of each page.

Commencing from the beginning of the main body of the thesis (Chapter 1 to last page to the end of the thesis should be numbered in Arabic numerals at the top center of each page. The page that commences Chapters/ Abstract/ Acknowledgements/Table of Contents/ List of Tables/ List of Figures/ List of Plates/ List of Abbreviations/ Appendices should be left without numbering but numbering should be continued from the next page.

### 5. LISTING OF THE ORDER OF ITEMS IN M.Sc./M.Phil./Ph.D THESIS

#### 5.1 Preliminary Pages



## **5.2 Main body of the thesis**

The main body of the thesis shall constitute several **Chapters** (eg ; Chapter 1, Chapter 2 etc). Each chapter may have several subtitles listed under the main title and these will be shown as Chapter 1. 1.1, Chapter 1 . 1.2 etc .

Each Chapter shall have a title displayed in upper case bold type letters with Arabic numerals (eg. CHAPTER 1, CHAPTER 2) followed by the title in bold type set in Times New Roman font size 14. Both the Chapter number and the Title should be centered. Sub titles shall be printed in bold type letters (Times New Roman font size 12). Proper spacing between Chapter number, Chapter title, sub titles and between paragraphs should be maintained throughout the thesis. The text in the thesis should be Times New Roman font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing (see the example at the end).

## **5.3 Layout of Chapters**

Lay out of Chapters could be arranged in two methods. You can use either first or second method based on your preference.

### **First Method**

#### **CHAPTER 1**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1. Justification and Background to the proposed research

1.2. Current status

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1. General objectives

1.3.2. Specific objectives

#### **CHAPTER 2**

##### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1. History of Salmonella

2.2. Nomenclature of Salmonella

2.3. Pathogenesis of Salmonella

2.4. ....

#### **CHAPTER 3**

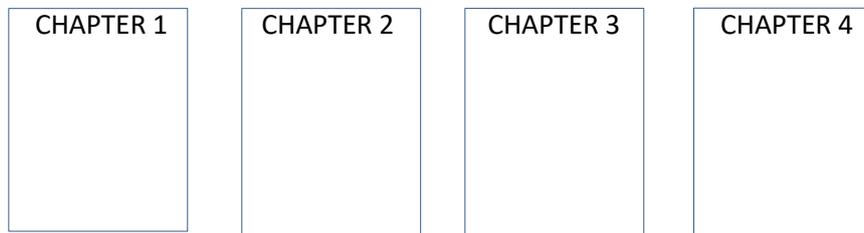
## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

- 3.1. Isolating and serotyping Salmonella from broiler chicken samples
- 3.2. Detection of virulent genes and quantification of virulence gene expression
- 3.3. ....

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 4.1. Expression of virulent genes in Salmonella isolates
- 4.2. Presence of antimicrobial resistant genes
- 4.3. Biofilm formation on different surfaces



## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **REFERENCES**

### **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX I Publication I

APPENDIX II Publication II

Appendices - These include sets of data not directly required to interpret/explain the project work/outcomes which if necessary could be easily accessible in the Appendices.

Published journal articles arising from the thesis could be attached as Appendices.

### **Second Method**

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS (Breif description on the layout of the thesis)**

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka

1.2. Malwathu Oya

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1. General objectives

1.3.2. Specific objectives

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1. Global Status of Water

2.2. Threats to Lentic and Lotic Waters

2.3. River Substrates

2.4. ....

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **NATIVE FISH SPECIES IN UPPER MALWATHU OYA**

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. Specific Objectives

3.1.2. ....

3.2. Material and Methods

3.2.1. Selection of Study Area

3.2.2. Determination of River Length

3.2.3.....

3.3. Results and Discussion

3.3.1. Fish species in upper Malwathu Oya

3.3.2. Relative Abundance of Native Fish in Upper Malwathu Oya

3.3.3. Distribution of Native Fish in upper Malwathu Oya

3.3.4. ....

3.4. Conclusions

## **CHAPTER 4**

## **EFFECT OF WATER QUALITY ON COHABITING NATIVE FISH IN UPPER MALWATHU OYA**

### 4.1. Introduction

#### 4.1.1. Specific Objectives

### 4.2. Material and Methods

#### 4.2.1. Sampling Sites in Upper Malwathu Oya

#### 4.2.2. Collection of Fish Samples

#### 4.2.3. Chemical Analysis

### 4.3. Results and Discussion

#### 4.3.1. Seasonal Changes in pH

#### 4.3.2. Spatial Changes in pH

### 4.4. Conclusions

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **REFERENCES**

### **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX I Publication I

APPENDIX II Publication II

## 6. REFERENCES

### 6.1 Harvard System or Author and Year System

References shall be cited using the Harvard referencing style or Author-Year referencing style. All references in the text should be included at the end of the thesis in the References section. The references should be arranged in alphabetical order at the end of the thesis and in chronological order in the text. If several papers by the same author/s are cited. Use a, b, etc. after the year to distinguish papers published by the same author/s in the same year.

#### Examples:

Conrad, A.B. (1991a). Fungal inhibition in rice crops. *Postharvest Crop Protection*, 1, 81-93.

Conrad, A.B. (1991b). Heat tolerance in third instars of the oriental fruit fly (Diptera: Tephritidae). *Journal of Asian Entomology*, 1298-1303.

If the same source is cited in the previous reference and no other work has been quoted in between same source could be used in the next reference without repeating the names to save space.

References should be composed in the following order: Author/s names with initials after surname, Year of publication (*in parenthesis*), Title of the article, Name of the journal, Volume, Number (*in parenthesis*), Number of pages.

#### Example: Reference of a full article:

Liu, Q., Meng, X. and Tang, G.Y. (2019). Antibacterial and antifungal activities of spices. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 18 (6) : 20 – 27.

To save space, Journal references could be abbreviated according to the List of Journal Title World Abbreviations, British Standards Institution (BS 5605, 1978).

#### Example: An abbreviated Journal article

Liu, Q., Meng, X. and Tang, G.Y. (2019). Antibacterial and antifungal activities of spices. *Int.J.Mol Sci*, 18 (6) : 20 – 27.

### 6.2 In- text citations

In-text citations, up to two authors, use all authors names and the year, if more than two authors, use after the last name of the first author *et al.*, (meaning and others) but names of all authors should appear in the **References** list at the end of the thesis.

Some examples are given below to illustrate the recommended format of the Author - Year System.

### **Examples of in-text citations:**

In Indonesia Gliricidia is used as the sole shade tree (Siebel, 1987). Sivapalan (1993) reported that Gliricidia grown under mid country tea provided 20kg/ha green matter yield. Seneviratne *et al.* (2011) identified shifting cultivation as a wasteful farming practice....Recent studies (Silva and Perera, 2016) have shown ..... Peterson (2003b) ..... that the actual value is higher (Senaratne *et al.*, 1995; Stowell, 2012).

### **6.3 Journal articles with single author:**

Bedford, G.O.(2013). Biology and management of palm dynastid beetle. *Recent Adv. Ann. Rev.Entomol.*, 58: 353-372.

### **6.4 Journal articles with two authors**

Collier,T. and Van Steenywyk, R. (2004). Critical evaluation of augmentative bio - control. *Biol. Control*, 31: 245-246.

### **6.5 Journal articles with more than two authors**

Ismail, A.M., Ella, E.S., Vegara, G.V. and Mckill, D.J. (2009). Mechanisms associated with tolerance to flooding during germination and early seedling growth of rice (*Oryza sativa* L). *Ann.Bot*, 103: 197-209.

### **6.6 Articles not yet published but in Press**

Abeyratna, J.A. and Arulnandy K. (2020). Effect of nitrogen and potassium on the grain yield of rice (*Oryza sativa* L). *Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Sri Lanka 2020* (in press)

### **6.7 Books (with author)**

De Datta, S.K. (1981). *Principles and Practices of Rice Production*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Day, Robert A. (1983). *How to write and publish a scientific paper*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. ISI Press, Philadelphia, USA.

### **6.8 Books (without author)**

Anonymous (1989). *Arid Zone Forestry. A Guide for Field Technicians*. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome,Italy.

Anonymous (2019). *Student Hand book*. Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

### **6.9 Chapters in Edited Books**

Ries, S.K. (1976). Subtoxic effects on plants. In: Audus, L.J. (ed.) *Herbicides: Physiology, Biochemistry and Ecology*, 2nd edn. Vol. 2, Academic Press, London. 313-344.

Marambe, B., Abeysekera, A.S.K. and Herath, H.M.S. (2015). Weeds and weed management agricultural and natural ecosystems: An overview of the Sri Lankan context. In: Rao, A.N., Yaduraju, N.T., Chandrasena, N.R., Gul Hassan and Sharma, A.R. (eds.) *Weed science in the Asia-Pacific region*, Chapter 9, Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society and Indian Society of Weed Science, Hyderabad, India. 213-240.

### **6.10 Monograph**

Gunatilleke, C.V.S. (1996). *A nature guide to the world's end trail, Horton Plains*. Peradeniya Science Publication.

### **6.11 Proceedings of Conferences, workshops, Congresses, Symposia and Case Studies**

Wijesekara, H.A.K., Senarathna, K.G.C. and Rajapakse R.M.G. (2015). Synthesis of a metallated porphyrin complex using ferrous sulfate and investigating its characteristics. *Proceedings of the Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, Sri Lanka*, 19, 328.

Bruins, M. (2009). Evolution and contribution of plant breeding to global agriculture. *Proceedings of the second world seed conference*, September 8 – 10. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.

Thattil, R.O., Wickremasinghe, I.P. and Gunasena, H.P.M. (1993). Performance of Gliricidia provenances in the intermediate zone of Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> regional workshop on multipurpose trees*, 12 -14 March, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Ekanayake, U.L.N.S. and Wijesinghe, D.G.N.G. (2020). Junk food consumption, physical activity and nutritional status of adolescent school children. *Annual Congress of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*, 3.

Tennakoon, N.A. (2011). Soil fertility and water management through coconut based agro forestry systems. In: Pushpakumara, D.K.N.G., Gunasena, H.P.M., Gunathilake, H.A.J. and Singh, V.P. (eds.) *Proceedings of the symposium on coconut land productivity through agro forestry interventions*, Coconut Research Institute and World Agroforestry Center, New Delhi, India, 45 – 57.

Weerahewa, J., Kodituwakku, S. and Ariyawardena, A. (2010). The fertilizer subsidy program in Sri Lanka. In: Pinstrip-Anderson, P. (ed). Case Study No. 7-11, *Food policy for developing countries: The role of the government in the global food system*. Cornell University, New York.

### **6.12 Thesis**

Cregg, B.M. (1990). Net Photosynthesis and carbon allocation of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda* L.) branches in relation to three levels of shade. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Georgia, USA.

### 6.13 Internet sources

Thesis (website):

Smith, J. (2000). Curli's Airships Polegate, Master of Arts. [online] Available at: <http://www.curlysairships.com> [Accessed 29 May 2001]

Journal article (online database or website):

Marcus, L., Prusky, D. and Jacoby, B. (1988). Purification and characterization of avocado lipoxygenase. *Phytochemistry* [online] 27(2), 323-326. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0031-9422\(88\)83090-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0031-9422(88)83090-5) [Accessed 8 April 2015].

IRRI Rice Knowledge Bank. (2015). Wet direct seeded rice. [online] Available at: <http://www.knowledgebank.irri.org/> [Accessed March 31, 2019].

### 6.14 Patents

Ratnayake, U.N., Fernando, N., Kularatna, S. and Karunaratna, V. Process for making reinforcing elastomer-clay nanocomposites (Assignee: Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (PVT) Ltd) US Patent No. 12/0004347 A1, Jan 5, 2012).

Green, M. A. Artificial amorphous semiconductors and application to solar cells. New South Wales, Innovations Pyt Ltd, Patent No. PCT /AU2005/0006147, April 29, 2005.

## 7. ILLUSTRATIONS, FIGURES, TABLES AND PLATES

**7.1 Illustrations:** Drawings, figures, maps should be clearly printed and borders should not be present around the illustrations. The titles of all figures should be numbered in Arabic numerals and placed at the bottom using Times New Roman font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing if there is more than one line. In maps, information such as coordinates, linear scale, directive arrow and index map showing the locality of area should be provided. A legend for the figures and statistical significance should be given. They should be placed in an appropriate position in the text.

Eg: **Figure 3.3. Effect of fertilizer on grain yield.....**

(Times New Roman, Font size 12, bold)

**7.2 Tables:** Tables must be self-explanatory and should not represent the data given elsewhere in the text. Only the relevant data should be presented in tables. Tables should be placed close to the text and no vertical lines should be used. The titles of tables should be numbered and

placed at the top of the table. If the volume of the data is too large, consider placing them as appendix tables.

Eg: **Table 3.4. Grain yield variations in rice.....**

(Times New Roman, Font size 12, bold)

**7.3 Plates:** Plates should be included when they are essential for the understanding of the content in the text. They should be clear, glossy in colour and of high quality.

Eg: **Plate 5. Commercial unit for dendro power generation in Sri Lanka**

(Times New Roman, Font size 12, bold)

Note: Notes may be placed at the bottom of the Figures, Tables and Plates to cite sources or explain author's comments using Times New Roman, Font size 10, single line spacing.

## 8. SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Scientific names of plants and animals should be presented in italics with the authority in capitals.

In the first citation genus, species and authority shall be given ( Eg: *Oryza sativa* L), in later citations generic name should be abbreviated (Eg: *O. sativa* L)

### 8.1 Examples of botanical names

Rice - *Oryza sativa* L.

Gliricidia- *Gliricidia sepium* (Jacq.) Kunth ex Walp.

Jackfruit - *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.

Cardamom- *Elattaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton

Chilli - *Capsicum annum* L.

Tea - *Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze

### 8.2 Examples of zoological names

Coconut rhinoceros beetle - *Oryctes rhinoceros* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Palm weevil - *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier, 1790)

Coconut black headed caterpillar - *Opisina arenosella* (Walker, 1864)

Coconut mite - *Aceria guerreronis* (Keifer, 1965)

## 9. ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations, the shortened forms of words may be employed in the thesis provided they conform to the international standards. A list of abbreviations organized alphabetically should be included in the thesis accompanied by their corresponding full forms. If unconventional terms are used, they should be presented in detail in the first citation.

Eg; dry zone (DZ), Mahawel Development Authority (MDA), Department of Agriculture (DOA)

### 9.1 Examples of commonly used abbreviations

Anonymous	-	Anon.
Bulletin	-	Bull.
Conference	-	Conf.
Experimental	-	Exp.
Institute	-	Inst.
Organic	-	Org.
Pathology	-	Pathol.
Proceedings	-	Proc.
Science	-	Sci.
Symposium	-	Symp.

### 9.2 Examples of abbreviations used without definition

Term	Abbreviation	Term	Abbreviation
Average	avg.	Concentration	conc.
Height	ht.	molecular weight	mol. wt.
Number	no.	Specific gravity	sp.gr
Temperature	temp.	Volume	vol.
Experiment	expt.	Week	wk.
Weight	wt.	Year	yr

### 9.3 Examples of SI derived abbreviations expressed in terms of base units

Quantity	Name	SI Unit
		Symbol
Area	square meter	m <sup>2</sup>
Volume	cubic meter	m <sup>3</sup>
Speed, velocity	meter per second	m/s
Density, mass density	kilogram per cubic meter	kg/m <sup>3</sup>

Other abbreviations/acronyms should be spelled out when first used.

## 10. UNITS OF PHYSICAL QUANTITIES

Use the International System of Units (SI) and keep a single space between two types of units.

E.g.: kg m J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup> kg m<sup>-3</sup>

## 11. MATHEMATICAL FORMULAE

All mathematical formulae should be typed with symbols in correct alignment and adequately spaced; vectors should be indicated by vertical lines.

## 12. CHEMICAL FORMULAE AND NOMENCLATURE

12.1 Valence of ions can be denoted as Ca<sup>2+</sup> and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>

12.2 Nomenclature: Use IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) nomenclature

## 13. LEVEL OF STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In reporting experimental data, the digits that are not significant should not be used (do not keep digits beyond the precision of the scale of the instrument).

E.g.: 4.6567 to be reported as 4.66 if the scale used is precise up to the second decimal place. The level of significance could be expressed as  $P < 0.05$

**SPECIMEN 14.1. TITLE PAGE - Ph.D THESIS**

**USE OF EVAPORATIVE WATER COOLING (EWC) IN  
GRINDING CHILLI (*Capsicum annum* L.)**

(Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

By

**HEWA KAPUGE MALMI CHETHANA**

(Times New Roman, font size 14, Bold)

Thesis (Times New Roman, font size 12)

submitted for the degree of

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** (Times New Roman, 12, bold)

in the

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE**

of the

**UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
PERADENIYA**

**OCTOBER 2021**

(Times New Roman, font size 12, bold)

*SPECIMEN 14.2.(a.) TITLE PAGE - M.Phil. DEGREE (for students who are doing full time research)*

**IMPACT OF USERS' TECHNOLOGY READINESS AND  
PERCEIVED VALUE ON MOBILE PHONE ENABLED  
INTERNET USAGE**

*(Times New Roman, font size 14)*

By

**GODAKUMBURA MUDIYANSELAGE KAPILA  
KUMARA BANDARA**

*(Times New Roman, font size 14)*

Thesis

Submitted for the degree of

**MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

in the

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***SPECIMEN 14.2.(b) TITLE PAGE - M.Phil. DEGREE (for students doing Coursework & Research)***

**IMPACT OF USERS' TECHNOLOGY READINESS AND  
PERCEIVED VALUE ON MOBILE PHONE ENABLED  
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Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

**MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

in the

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of the

**UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
PERADENIYA**

**FEBRUARY 2021***(Times New Roman, font size 12)*

**SPECIMEN 14.3. TITLE PAGE - M.Sc. DEGREE**

**THREE-WAY ANALYSIS METHODS TO DETECT PANEL  
DISSENSUS IN TEA SENSORY EVALUATION**

(Times New Roman, font size 14)

By

**GAYANI THARUKA FERNANDO**

(Times New Roman, font size 14)

Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIO-STATISTICS**

in the

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE**

of the

**UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
PERADENIYA**

**JANUARY 2021**(Times New Roman, font size 12)

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Examiner 1

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Examiner 2

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Examiner 3

.....(Signature).....

..... (Name ).....

.....(Date).....

Director

**DECLARATION** (Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

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I do hereby declare that the work reported in this thesis was exclusively carried by me under the supervision of .....

It describes the results of my own independent research except where due reference has been made in the text. No part of this thesis has been submitted earlier or concurrently for the same or any other degree.

.....

Date

.....

Signature of the candidate

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..... (Name) .....

Senior Supervisor

Date:.....

.....(Signature).....

..... (Name) .....

Supervisor

Date:.....

**ABSTRACT** (Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

Water contamination by heavy metals is a major environmental problem due to their acute toxicity and their accumulation in food chains. Unlike organic compounds, heavy metal ions are non-biodegradable and tend to accumulate in living organisms, and those are considered toxic or carcinogenic ions. The main objective of the current research was to examine the potential of clay brick and laterite brick as relatively inexpensive and environmentally friendly adsorbents to treat  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in industrial wastewater in Sri Lanka. A series of batch adsorption experiments were conducted to characterize CB and LB in terms of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  adsorption properties using isotherm models. Significant differences among the adsorption capacities of tested adsorbents were investigated using paired t-test. The results revealed that there is no significant difference in pH in different size fractions of CB. The maximum adsorption capacity of CB and LB reached 210.9 mg/g and 210.7 mg/g for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , respectively. The maximum adsorption capacity of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  by CB and LB was 4.5 mg/g and 4.5 mg/g. From adsorption isotherms, the Langmuir and Freundlich models fitted well for  $0 \leq C_i \leq 1000$  mg/L of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  adsorption on both CB and LB. Adsorption of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  on to CB and LB is well captured by all isotherm models tested. A similar pattern of adsorption was observed among all particle sizes of CB and LB.

(Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 line spacing)

Key Words: Water Contamination, heavy metal, environment friendly adsorbents

**IMPACT OF USERS' TECHNOLOGY READINESS AND PERCEIVED  
VALUE ON MOBILE PHONE ENABLED INTERNET USAGE IN THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA**

One-line spacing (Times New Roman, font size 12, bold)

**D.G.A.B. Kumara** (Times New Roman, font size 12, bold)

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

(Times New Roman, font size 10)

**ABSTRACT** (Times New Roman, font size 12)

Water contamination by heavy metals is a major environmental problem due to their acute toxicity and their accumulation in food chains. Unlike organic compounds, heavy metal ions are non-biodegradable and tend to accumulate in living organisms, and those are considered toxic or carcinogenic ions. The main objective of the current research was to examine the potential of clay brick and laterite brick as relatively inexpensive and environmentally friendly adsorbents to treat  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  in industrial wastewater in Sri Lanka. A series of batch adsorption experiments were conducted to characterize CB and LB in terms of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  adsorption properties using isotherm models. Significant differences among the adsorption capacities of tested adsorbents were investigated using paired t-test. The results revealed that there is no significant difference in pH in different size fractions of CB. The maximum adsorption capacity of CB and LB reached 210.9 mg/g and 210.7 mg/g for  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , respectively. The maximum adsorption capacity of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  by CB and LB was 4.5 mg/g and 4.5 mg/g. From adsorption isotherms, the Langmuir and Freundlich models fitted well for  $0 \leq C_i \leq 1000$  mg/L of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  adsorption on both CB and LB. Adsorption of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  on to CB and LB is well captured by all isotherm models tested. A similar pattern of adsorption was observed among all particle sizes of CB and LB.

Key Words: Water Contamination, heavy metal, environment friendly adsorbents

(Times New Roman, font size 12)

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## **CHAPTER 1** Times New Roman, 14, bold

### **INTRODUCTION**

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#### **1.1. Agricultural Extension**

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Agricultural extension can be defined as the entire set of organizations that support and facilitate people engaged in agricultural production to solve problems and to obtain information, skills, and technologies to improve their livelihoods and well-being (Birner *et al.*, 2006).

The World Bank (1990) agrees that services must be provided in a fundamentally different way than in the past, emphasizing on a framework for agricultural service provision that might be effective under current circumstances in developing countries. This framework puts agricultural extension into a much broader context of a demand-led service market. Hence the term “advisory services” is used instead of “extension”, to include the many non-traditional tasks, such as market information, micro-finance and health issues.

##### **1.1.1. Extension approaches**

Agricultural extension services date back to the nineteenth century with the aims of increasing agricultural productivity and production in Sri Lanka. For research to be effective there must be an efficient mechanism whereby its findings can be used by the end users. The process of making research findings available is the function of extension. Accordingly, research produces innovations which are passed on to extension which in turn passes them to farmers (Metrick, 1993). Developing a medium to exchange information is vital because it is necessary to integrate information from researchers, farmers and extension agents to be able to develop technologies that work.

The most common sterilizing agents used to disinfect the explants are sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxides, bromine water, silver nitrate, mercuric chloride and antibiotics. Generally hypochlorite solutions are easy to obtain and use, and are most effective, which are the active ingredient in many commercially available domestic bleach solutions (Balian *et al.*, 2008; Dudgeon *et al.*, 2010). An

initial pre-sterilization in ethanol (5-30 seconds) followed by 1-2% sodium hypochlorite (10-15 minutes) is usually sufficient and effective for many tissues. Shaking the explant during sterilization procedure will obviously enhance the effectiveness of the process. After sterilizing the explants, they should be washed several times (5 times) in sterile distilled water for complete removal of sterilant. Normally waxy tissues are hydrophobic and addition of Tween-20 in sterilizing agents will enhance the sterilization. A wide range of disinfectants have been used for explant sterilization.

Based on the results presented in Table 3.6, for both explants, MS medium supplemented 1.0 mg/L BAP was found to be best in proliferating shoot buds (80.0 % and 86.0 % respectively).

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**Table 3.5. Effect of seed treatments on mean % of germination and other growth parameters of *M. hexandra* seeds**

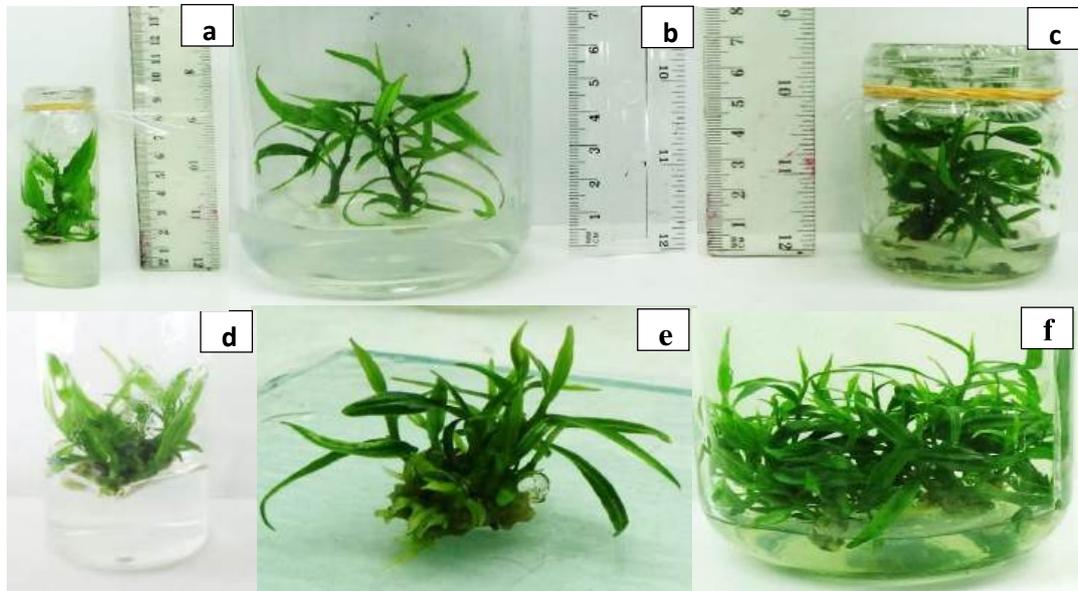
<sup>1</sup>Values represent the means  $\pm$  SE of the 3 replicates; values followed by the same letter are not significantly different at  $p \leq 0.05$  (one-way ANOVA, Duncan's multiple Range Test); T1 - 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup>

Treatment	Measured Parameter <sup>1</sup>			
	Mean % of germination	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Root length (cm)	Shoot length (cm)
T1	51.81 $\pm$ 4.45 <sup>a</sup>	7.06 $\pm$ 2.72 <sup>a</sup>	10.42 $\pm$ 0.63 <sup>b</sup>	2.53 $\pm$ 0.34 <sup>a</sup>
T2	26.32 $\pm$ 4.68 <sup>b</sup>	6.21 $\pm$ 0.48 <sup>ab</sup>	14.87 $\pm$ 2.06 <sup>a</sup>	2.51 $\pm$ 0.39 <sup>a</sup>
T3	18.07 $\pm$ 9.71 <sup>c</sup>	4.12 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>b</sup>	10.84 $\pm$ 1.46 <sup>b</sup>	1.17 $\pm$ 0.29 <sup>b</sup>
T4	21.15 $\pm$ 4.19 <sup>bc</sup>	4.46 $\pm$ 0.51 <sup>ab</sup>	11.84 $\pm$ 0.78 <sup>b</sup>	1.37 $\pm$ 0.32 <sup>b</sup>

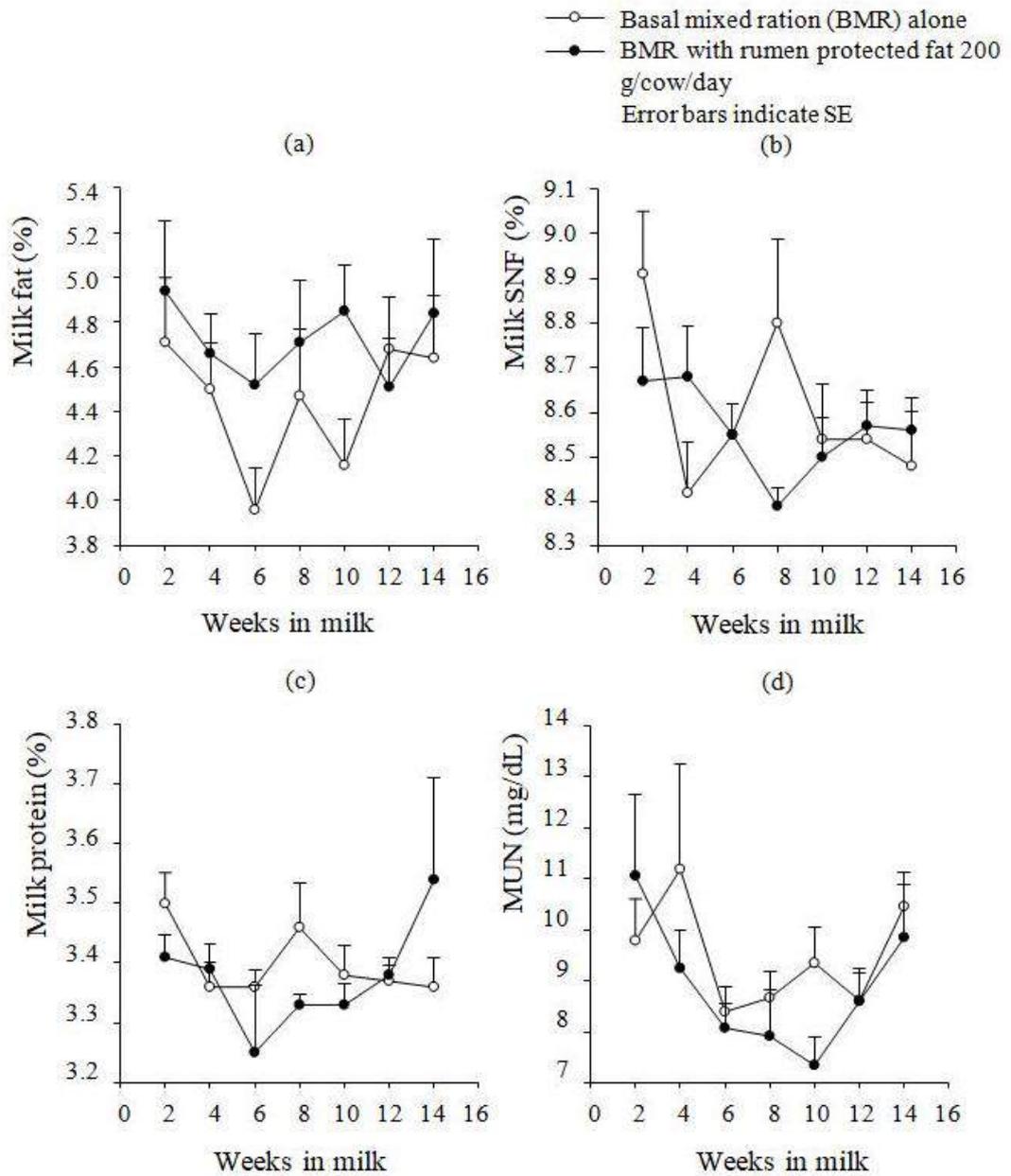
Gibberellic Acid, T2 - Distilled Water, T3 - Scarified T4 - Untreated Control

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**Plate 3.4.** Elongation of shoots in MS media supplemented with 40 g/L of sucrose and 1.0 mg/L BAP and 0.1 mg/L IBA at; 20<sup>th</sup> week (a), at 24<sup>th</sup> week (b), at 28<sup>th</sup> week (c), and multiplication of shoots at the end of 20<sup>th</sup> week (d), 24<sup>th</sup> week and 28<sup>th</sup> week (e and f)



**Figure 5.3. Influence of rumen protected fat supplementation during early lactation on (a) Milk fat (b) Milk SNF (c) Milk protein and (d) Milk urea nitrogen (MUN) contents of tropical crossbred dairy cattle**

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**APPENDIX I**

# Publication I

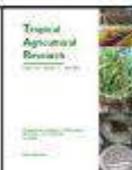
Tropical Agricultural Research (2022) 33(2): 113-124



Contents available at: Sri Lanka Journals Online

## Tropical Agricultural Research

Journal Home Page: <https://tar.sjoi.info>



### Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis among Cattle and Buffaloes in the Central Province of Sri Lanka

Y.H.P.S.N. Kumara<sup>1</sup>, A. Amarasinghe<sup>1</sup>, P.G.A.Pushpakumara<sup>1</sup>, H.M.S Wasana<sup>2</sup>, W.M.T.D Rathnakumara<sup>1</sup>, G.A. Gunawardana<sup>3</sup> and B. Alexander<sup>1\*</sup>

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Kumara, Y.H.P.S.N.   
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6718-6012>



#### ABSTRACT

The Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is a chronic disease condition in dairy cattle and a proven global zoonosis. This study was designed to identify the prevalence of bTB in dairy cattle and buffaloes in the Central Province (CP) of Sri Lanka. Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (SICCT) test was performed in 20 farms (n=616 cattle and buffaloes) in three districts (NuwaraEliya; NE, Kandy; KN, and Matale; MT) in the CP. Out of the SICCT positive samples, randomly selected serum samples (n=33) of eight farms were subjected to the rapid antibody (Ab) test for further confirmation. Results were evaluated for different risk factors; age, sex, parity, body condition score (BCS), breed, herd origin, reproductive status, herd size, type of management, and duration of farm establishment. The prevalence of bTB among individual cattle and buffaloes was 22% with a 50% herd-level prevalence. In NE and KN, 34% and 19% of individuals showed positive reactions for SICCT, respectively, while all the individuals in MT were negative. There were significant statistical associations ( $P < 0.05$ ) were observed with the prevalence of bTB and BCS, breed, herd origin, and reproductive status; however, age, sex, parity, herd size, type of management, and duration of farm establishment were not statistically significant ( $P > 0.05$ ) with the prevalence of bTB. The conclusion is that, based on the SICCT test, the estimated prevalence of bTB in cattle and buffaloes in the central province of Sri Lanka is relatively high (>20%). The SICCT test could be recommended for the screening of the bTB in cattle and buffaloes in all regions of Sri Lanka to assess the island-wide prevalence of bTB, as this disease carries the risk of transmitting to humans and other susceptible animal species.

\*Corresponding author: [basilalex66@gmail.com](mailto:basilalex66@gmail.com)

**SPECIMEN 14.9 - OUTER COVER PAGE – M.Sc./M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees**

**MICROPROPAGATION AND PRODUCTION OF AGARWOOD  
FRAGRANCE COMPOUNDS BY PLANT CELL CULTURES OF  
*Gyrinops walla***

(Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

**HEWA KAPUGE MALMI CHETHANA**

(Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

**2017**

(Times New Roman, font size 14, bold)

***SPECIMEN 14.10 - SPINE OF OUTER COVER PAGE***

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G.D.S.P. SAMARASINGHE

Ph.D.

2019

S. SAMARATHUNGE

M.Phil.

2019

**Annex 15**



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**Degree Program:**

**Title of Thesis:**

**Date of Commencement of Research:**

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If not followed give reasons

**b) Scientific Writing: Followed/Not Followed**

If not followed give reasons

**c) Any courses suggested by the Board of Study: Followed/Not Followed**

If not followed give reasons

**2. List of Papers Published from the Research (provide a list based on Author and Year System and attached all publications)**

**3. Progress Review Meetings Attended (list date and years)**

**4. Research Presentations Attended: (list events attended as well as schedule of your presentations)**

**I also certify that I have settled all the fees due from me to the Institute.**

**Date:**

**Signature of the Applicant:**

**DECLARATION OF SUPERVISORS**

<b>Name of Supervisors</b>	<b>I have corrected the thesis and approved for submission</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Telephone No</b>
	Yes/No		

**Chairman**

Board of Study in

Please indicate the examiners in the form below and return the document

**Date:**

**Director**

**FOR THE USE OF BOARD OF STUDY**

The Board of Study in .....recommended the following panel of examiners be appointed to evaluate the thesis submitted by the student concerned. **Upon communications, examiners mentioned below have confirmed their availability to review the thesis.**

<b>Name of the Examiner*</b> <i>(include title, name, expert on subject matter, experience on supervision and examination of research degrees)</i>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone No and email address</b>

*\*It should be noted here that the presence of the examiners is mandatory for the Thesis Defense Examination if he/she undertakes to review.*

**Date:**

**Chairman/Secretary Board of Study**

## Annex 16

### POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THESIS DEFENCE EXAMINATION

- 1). **Welcome**
  
- 2). **Announce the Followings**
  - 1). Introduction of the candidate
    - i.) Name of the candidate including affiliation if any
    - ii.) Title of the Thesis
    - iii.) Board of Study
    - iv.) Degree seeking
    - v.) Name of the supervisors including affiliation
    - vi.) Name of examiners including affiliations
  - 11). Instructions /regulations on examination
    - i.) Thesis defense examination consists of two components viz,
      - (a). Presentation by the candidate
      - (b). Oral examination
    - ii.) Presentation is open for the public but not the oral examination
    - iii.) Time allocated for the presentation- about 30 minutes)
    - iv.) No time limit for oral examination
    - v.) Presentation is followed by questions/ clarifications/comments based on the presentation.
  
- 3). **Conducting the Oral Examination**
  - i.) Upon completion of question period after the presentation , oral examination can be called and the public can be asked to leave.(Only the candidate, examiners, supervisors and the Chairman can remain inside) (tea may be saved after the completion of the questions based on the presentation).
  - ii.) Examiners can decide way of asking questions such as chapter -wise by both examiners or one examiner followed by the other examiner for the whole thesis etc.
  - iii.) Supervisors cannot intervene during oral examination.
  - iv.) When examiners inform that they are done with the oral examination (before making a decision), ask the student to leave the room and wait outside the room.
  - v.) Inform the examiners that there are 4 choices
    - (a). accept with no corrections
    - (b). accept with minor corrections (then the student need to submit the revise version within 03 months .In addition examiners and decide whether they want to see the revised version or seeing it by the supervisors is sufficient).

- (c). Accept with major corrections (then the student should be given a minimum of months to attend the corrections and another defense examination has to be held after submitting the revised version).
- (d). reject the thesis
- vi). After examiners made the decision, call the student inside and inform the student about the decision in front of the examiners and supervisors.
- vii). Inform the student about the conditions associated if the decision is either (b) or (c) in (v) above
- viii). Obtain the necessary signatures-
  - (a). front page (if the outcome is (a) or(b) in (v) above
  - (b). a document (delete the inappropriate words)
  - (c). Results book (deleted the inappropriate words)

**4. Thank everybody**

**Annex 17**



**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

**THESIS EVALUATION FORM**

Date:

This evaluation form must be completed and returned with the thesis to the Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya on or before (*specify date*).

Candidate's Name	
Title of Thesis	
Degree Sought	

**How do you rate the thesis based on the followings?**

	Adequately	Partially	Inadequately
1. Does the thesis demonstrate mature scholarship?			
2. Do the findings make a significant contribution to Knowledge in the field?			
3. Has the Thesis been written in a satisfactory literary style?			
4. Are conclusions properly supported?			
5. Does the abstract express the meaning of the thesis?			
6. Has the candidate prepared the thesis conforming to the prescribed format?			

Note: If any cage is checked as inadequate, please provide reasons.

**Report on Thesis**

(Please give a critical evaluation of this thesis based on Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Figures and Tables, Abstract, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Recommendations, References)

**Decision on Acceptability of Thesis/Dissertation**

(Based on desk evaluation)

The Thesis/Dissertation is acceptable / not acceptable according to my evaluation.

Accept the Thesis/Dissertation in the present form	
Accept the Thesis/Dissertation with minor typographical/editorial/corrections and minor revisions to the text	
Resubmit the Thesis/Dissertation for re-examination after major revisions	
Consider the Thesis/Dissertation for a lower qualification	
Reject the Thesis/Dissertation	

Date:

Signature:

Member, Thesis Defense Examination Committee

Name of Examiner	
NIC Number	
Mobile Number & Email	