



## **STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024**

**Master of Philosophy in Business Economics: MPhil (BEc)**

**Master of Science in Business Economics: MSc (BEc)**

**Master of Business Economics: MBEc**

**Department of Business Economics  
Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

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## Message from the Head:

### Department of Business Economics



As the head of the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura I'm writing this message with countless pleasure. As a pioneering University of the Sri Lankan university system, we were the first to introduce undergraduate programmes in Business Economics in Sri Lanka in 2002. Recently, Business Economics has become a well-established degree programme in locally and internationally.

Following this pioneering nature of the department and the university, we are delighted to introduce Postgraduate Programmes in Business Economics in 2020. The postgraduate programmes are offered by the Department of Business Economics with the aim of bridging the gap between theory and practice in the area of economics directly relevant to business decision-making and policy formulation. Accordingly, the Master of Business Economics and Master of Philosophy in Business Economics are launched with great pleasure and pride.

I hope the students will make the best use of the opportunity provided to them in stimulating their academic flavor. Moreover, I would like to congratulate the very best to postgraduate students, and hope everybody will get the maximum benefit!

Dr. Janaka Fernando

*Ph.D. (Nagoya, Japan), master's in economics (Colombo), Master of IDS (GRIPS, Japan), Special Training on Quantitative Research Methods (Griffith, Australia), B.Sc. in Business Administration (Business Economics) (Special) (USJ)*

**Message from the Coordinator:**  
**Master of Philosophy in Business Economics**



I am pleased to welcome you all to the Department of Business Economics of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, which is considered as the pioneering faculty in management education in Sri Lanka. Business Economics is the field surrounding the study pertaining to managing of business with scarce resources. MPhil. in Business Economics integrates the field of economics with business by highlighting the important aspects of business with more precision.

I am happy to say that, whatever your areas of interest within economics and management, you should find others here – fellow students, faculty members, industry practitioners with whom you can share ideas, and from whom you can learn – through informal interactions as well as in lectures, classes and the extensive seminar programmes. The MPhil in Business Economics have been starting points for the careers of many distinguished economists and managers in academia and beyond. You will be taught and supervised by people at the forefront of research, who will encourage you to aim high. We hope that you will take the advantage of many opportunities available here to develop your own expertise as a business economist, and above all that you will enjoy studying and learning with us.

Prof. (Mrs.) Sumudu Perera

*Ph.D. (UNE, Australia), M.A. in International Economics & Finance (Chulalongkorn, Thailand), MBA (PIM-USJ), B.Com. (Special) (USJ)*

**Message from the Coordinator:  
Master of Business Economics**



As the coordinator of the Master of Business Economics and Master of Science in Business Economics programs, it is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to all participants to the Department of Business Economics. Positioned as a leader in the domain of Business Economics both locally in Sri Lanka and across the wider region, our department boasts a distinguished history marked by groundbreaking progressions within the discipline.

In an era marked by volatile business landscapes, characterized by crises, and pandemics, the significance of business economics insight and the pivotal role assumed by business economists have been underscored by numerous professionals and experts. Business economists adeptly leverage economic principles and managerial expertise in the decision-making process. They possess a proficiency in constructing models and utilizing them to facilitate informed decision-making. The fundamental competencies of business economists encompass the capacity to identify challenges within profit-driven and non-profit-driven entities, proficiently organize and analyze data, and assess alternative courses of action to optimize outcomes for identified issues.

The MBEC and MSc (Bec) programs, offered by the Department of Business Economics at USJ, have been meticulously crafted to cultivate individuals equipped with the aforementioned proficiencies. Distinguished by a comprehensive and contemporary curriculum, an esteemed faculty comprising leading authorities in Business Economics, hands-on exposure to industry practices, and a pedagogical approach that amalgamates various modes of instruction, learning, and evaluation, our program stands as a beacon of excellence.

Embarking upon this program signifies the commencement of a challenging yet rewarding journey. Regardless of your academic background, the aim is to instill within each participant the mindset and capabilities requisite of a proficient business economist upon completion of the program. Therefore, I urge you to prepare yourselves to unleash your full potential, while relishing the opportunity to pursue graduate studies under the guidance of pioneers in the realm of Business Economics.

Wish you all the best!

Dr. (Mrs.) D.R.J. Siriwardhane

*Ph.D. (Colombo), M.Sc. in Management (USJ), M.A. Economics (Colombo); PG Dip in Business Statistics (USJ), B.A. in Economics (Special) (USJ)*



# 1. Introduction



This student handbook provides general information and guidance to follow postgraduate degree programmes in business economics offered by the Department of Business Economics of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This book should be referred to in conjunction with the other policies, guidelines and by-laws of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and this book will not supersede the university mandate.

### **University of Sri Jayewardenepura**



Located in a beautiful setting at Gangodawila, Nugegoda, fifteen kilometers away from Colombo, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is one of Sri Lanka's foremost state universities. The history of the University goes back to 1883 when the Venerable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero established the Vidyodaya Pirivena (a centre of learning for Buddhist monks) at Maligakanda. The University Act No. 45 of 1958 elevated the Vidyodaya Pirivena to University status. With this transformation, the University was shifted to its present location at Gangodawila, Nugegoda. On the 1st of January, 1979 exactly 20 years after its inauguration, the Vidyodaya University was renamed as the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) in accordance with the University Act No. 16 of 1978. Today the University is one of the largest university campuses in the country spreading over 55 acres of land and comprising of eight faculties: Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Management Studies and Commerce, Medical Sciences, Graduate Studies, Engineering, Technology, and Allied Health Science.



## Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce



The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) of the University has been the gateway to success for over 50,000 students. In the illustrious history of 60 years of academic excellence, we have spearheaded the development of management education in Sri Lanka through our programmes designed to meet the needs of Sri Lanka's economy and of its business managers.

In all spheres, the University's work is closely linked to that of industrial, commercial and academic establishments locally, nationally and internationally. In this expanding environment, quality of university education is of paramount importance. We offer 12 undergraduate degree programmes with more than 300 subjects. Our research activities are a strong indication of innovation and intellectual challenge that demonstrates our leadership in management education in the country. Therefore, we at FMSC offer learning heightened by cutting edge research and innovation with a rare combination of practical and relevant knowledge and transferable skills, which are essential for teamwork, communication and leadership to build your career. FMSC is a dynamic, forward looking and modern faculty. Irrespective of whether one intends to study at undergraduate level (internal or external) or postgraduate level, you will find intellectual challenge and stimulation in a highly competitive environment at the FMSC. The FMSC is committed to realise the vision and mission of the university whilst furthering the management education of the country.



## Department of Business Economics



Department of Business Economics is the pioneering department in the field of business economics in the university system in Sri Lanka. Business Economics was introduced as an area of specialization to the B.Sc. Business Administration Degree Programme at the Department of Business Administration in the year 1995. Due to unprecedented demand it earned, it was developed into the B.Sc. in Business Administration (Business Economics) (Special) degree in 2002, a four-year fully-fledged degree programme offered by the Department of Business Economics of the FMSC.

### **Our Vision**

***“Prosper lives through learning”***

### **Our Mission**

***“Create and disseminate knowledge for the prosperity”***

### **Our Strategic Intension**

***“To contribute to society through the creation of citizens excelled in the fields of Management and Economics, who would in turn become outstanding Managers, Economists, Scholars and Policymakers”***

The postgraduate degree programmes in Business Economics have been especially designed for those who are employed in both public and private sector organizations and wish to be qualified in the field of Business Economics and/or acquire theoretical and analytical knowledge in Business Economics.

Table 1.1: Postgraduate Degree Programmes in Business Economics

Degree	Type	Duration
Master of Business Economics: MBEc	Full Time	01 year
Master of Science in Business Economics: MSc(BEc)	Full Time	02 years
Master of Philosophy in Business Economics: MPhil(BEc)	Full Time	02 years

#### 1.4 Postgraduate Lecture Panel

##### **Snr Prof. Sampath Amarathunga**

*Senior Professor (Chair) of Business Economics / Chairman of University Grants Commission  
Ph.D. (Kagoshima, Japan); M.Sc. Econ. of Rural Dev.; M.A. Econ. (Colombo); B.A. Econ. (Special) (SJP).*

##### **Prof. Indralal De Silva**

*Emeritus Professor in Demography, University of Colombo  
Ph.D. (Australian National University); MA (Australian National University, Diploma in Population Studies (IIPS, India); Bachelor of Development Studies (University of Colombo); Senior Full bright fellow, Harvard School of Public Health.*

##### **Snr Prof. D. B. P. H. Dissabandara**

*Senior Professor in Finance  
Ph.D. (Chukyo, Japan); M.Sc. Management (SJP); B.Sc. Mgt. (Public) (Special) (SJP); APFDA; AITD (SL).*

##### **Prof. P. G. S. Amila Jayarathne**

*Professor in Marketing  
PhD (UK); M. in Policy Stud. (Tokyo); MSc in Management (SJP); B. Sc. Mkt. Mgt. (Special) (SJP).*

##### **Prof. U. Anura Kumara**

*Professor in Business Economics  
Ph.D. (SHU, UK); M.Sc. OR (Moratuwa); PG Dip. So. Stat. (SJP); B.A. Econ. (Special) (SJP).*

##### **Prof. Sumudu Perera**

*Senior Lecturer  
Ph.D. (UNE, Australia), M.A. in International Economics & Finance (Chulalongkorn, Thailand), MBA (PIM-USJ), B.Com. (Special) (SJP).*

##### **Prof. M. A. K. Sriyalatha**

*Senior Lecturer  
Ph.D. (Meijo, Japan); M.Com. (Kelaniya); PG. Dip. Bus. Mgt. (Colombo); B.Sc. Mgt. Pub. (Special) (SJP).*

**Prof. Hemamalie Gunathilake**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Warwick, UK); M.Sc.(USJ); B.Sc. Public Administration (USJ).*

**Prof. M. H. A. Sisira Kumara**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Pub. Economics) (GRIPS, Tokyo); M.P.P. M.A.in Pub. Economics; MPA (PIM-SJP); B.Sc. Mgt. (Public) (Special) (SJP).*

**Prof. T. S. M. Amarasena**

*Senior Lecturer*

*PhD (MSU, Malaysia). MBA (Int. Bus. Mgt.) (AIT, Thailand & ESCP-EAP Oxford U.K), Dip. in Bus. Admin.(Colombo), B.Sc. (Pub. Admin.Special) (SJP).*

**Prof. Pushpa Maldeniyage**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Meijo, Japan); MA in Management (UK); MBA (Colombo); B.Sc Public Administration (Special).*

**Prof. A. R. Ajward**

*Senior Lecturer*

*PhD (Japan); MBA (Japan); ACA (Chartered Accountant); B.Sc. Accountancy Special (SJP).*

**Dr. P P Lalani**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (International Commerce) (Korea University); M.A. (International Development) (Korea University); M.Sc. Mgt. (SJP); B.Com. (Special) (SJP).*

**Dr. D. R. J. Siriwardhane**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Colombo), M.Sc. in Management (USJ), M.A. Economics (Colombo); PG Dip in Business Statistics (USJ), B.A. in Economics (Special) (USJ).*

**Dr. Ananda Rathnayake**

*Senior Lecturer*

*PhD (Economics) (Colombo); MEcon (Financial Economics) (Colombo); B.A. in Business Statistics (Special) (SJP).*

**Dr. P.A.N.S. Anuradha**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Colombo); MBA (Finance) (Colombo); B.Sc. Bus. Admin. (Special) (SJP).*

**Dr. Dushan Chaminda**

*Senior Lecturer*

*PhD (Australia); MSc(SJP); B.Sc in Marketing (Special) (SJP).*

**Dr. Amitha Kumara**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (VUW, New Zealand); MBA in IT (Moratuwa); B. Com (Special) (SJP).*



**Dr. Janaka Fernando**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D. (Nagoya, Japan); Masters in Economics (Colombo); Master of IDS (GRIPS, Japan), Special Training on Quantitative Research Methods (Griffith, Australia); B.Sc. in Business Administration (Business Economics) (Special) (USJ).*

**Dr. Thusitha Abeysekara**

*Senior Lecturer*

*PhD in Computer Law (Exeter-UK); LLM in Computer and Communications Law/Queen Mary, (London – UK); LLB (Colombo); Attorney-at-Law; Dip in IR (BCIS/Sri Lanka); Dip in HR (AMU/Poland); Cert. in Digital Archives (CEU/Hungary).*

**Dr. P. Ravindra S. De Silva**

*Senior Lecturer*

*Ph.D (Aizu, Japan); M.Sc (Aizu, Japan); B.Sc.(Hons) (Comp&Stat) (UOC, Sri Lanka).*

**Dr K. B. M. Fonseka**

*B. Sc. (Colombo); MBA (Colombo); FCMA (UK); FCMA.*

**Dr. Anil Perera**

**Central Bank of Sri Lanka**

*Director*

*Domestic Operational Department*

**Dr. N. S. Kumanayaka**

**Sri Lanka Customs**

*Deputy Superintendent of Customs*

*Ph.D. (Development Economics); M.A. in Public Economics; Master of Public Finance.*

**Mr. M. A. Nihal Chandrathilake**

*Senior Lecturer*

*M.Phil (Colombo); LLM (UK), PG Dip, LLB (Colombo), Attorney-at-Law.*

## 2. Master of Philosophy in Business Economics: MPhil (BEc)

MPhil in Business Economics



## Introduction

MPhil in Business Economics programme is a two-year programme, which is equivalent to SLQF Level 11. This programme is research-oriented and focuses firmly on the development of high-level independent research outcomes. Further, the programme allows graduates to enhance their theoretical knowledge and analytical skills in Business Economics, supplemented by courses, seminars, and the oral defense of a dissertation.

### 2.1. Programme Objectives

The aim of this programme is to enhance the capacities of the candidates with economics and managerial skills, which are necessary to deal with the challenges posed by the increasingly complex and rapidly changing business environment. In addition, it aims at meeting the educational and professional needs and expectations of those who require a comprehensive business education with policy making skills. Further, the students may gain an understanding of governance issues as well as opportunities to develop strong business and managerial skills.

### 2.2. Programme Structure

The structure of the MPhil. programme is summarized below:

**Duration:** 02 Years

**Course work:** Compulsory

**Dissertation:** 60 Credits

**Medium of Instructions:** English

The MPhil. programme consists of preliminary coursework and a dissertation in which coursework is supplementary to the dissertation. Hence, preliminary coursework will not be considered for the credit calculations. The structure of the MPhil Programme is presented in the below Table.

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Values
1 <sup>st</sup> Year – 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester		
MBE 5104	Research Methods	3
		3
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	



1 <sup>st</sup> Year – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester		
MBE 6001	Graduate Seminar in Business Economics I	Compulsory
MBE 6002	Graduate Seminar in Business Economics II	Compulsory
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year (Throughout the second year period)		
MBE 6003	Dissertation	60

A candidate needs to follow the steps mentioned below to complete the MPhil. programme in two years;

1. \*Successfully complete the taught courses; MBE 5104 and MBE 5105 and defend the proposal by the end of semester one of Year One.
2. Successfully completed MBE 6001 Graduate Seminar in Business Economics I, by the end of Year One.
3. Successfully complete MBE 6002 Graduate Seminar in Business Economics II, by the end of semester one of the Year Two
4. \*\* Publish findings of the research in at least one indexed journal or two refereed journals. The candidate needs to produce a letter of acceptance mentioning the article will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal in the event when there is a delay in getting the printed version of the journal.
5. Submit the dissertation for assessment by the stipulated deadline.
6. Defend the dissertation at the viva-voce.
7. Submit the dissertation (MBE 6003: MPhil. Dissertation) by the deadline, addressing all comments raised at the final viva-voce if any.

\* MPhil students may attend other lectures in the MBE programme with the approval of the principal supervisor. This will help students to acquire the expected expertise in the respective research area.

\*\* Please note that the publications based on MPhil research should be joint work of student and supervisors, hence, the names of the student (First author), principal supervisor and co-supervisor(s) should appear in publications. One research paper in an indexed journal or two referred journal papers is the minimum requirement for graduation. Supervisors may encourage their students to publish more than one research paper in indexed or peer-reviewed journals or as book chapters. In addition, supervisors should encourage their students to present the research findings at local and/or international conferences.

Conference (both local and foreign) participation fee of Rs.20,000.00 per student will be provided by the programme.

## **1.Eligibility Requirements**

Admissions are made twice in a calendar year.

To be eligible for admission to the MPhil. programme, an applicant should hold any of the following qualifications and a sound knowledge of the English language.

1. Bachelor's degree in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics special with a first or second class standing from a recognized university.
2. Master's degree in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting / Professional Accounting/ Financial Management/ Applied Finance/ Entrepreneurship/ Entrepreneurial Business Management/ Real Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics from a recognized University.
3. Other qualifications equivalent to the above-mentioned qualification in points 1 and 2, may be considered subject to the approval of the Senate.

NOTE: In addition, according to an internal memo circulated by the Board of Studies in Management on 31 January 2022, it was decided to offer internal recruitment to students who have already completed the Master of Science in Business Economics, Master of Business Economics, or Postgraduate Diploma in Business Economics. Further, it was determined to grant exemptions for MBE 5104: Research Methods and MBE 5105: Applied Econometrics if the student had already taken these courses as part of the aforementioned degree programmes. To be eligible for the foregoing course exemptions, the student must apply for the MPhil( BEc) within a year of receiving their respective degree.

## **2.Selection Procedure**

The selection procedure consists of the following steps:

- i. The received applications are screened to ensure that applicants meet the admission requirements.
- ii. Applicants who meet the basic requirements are called for an aptitude test. This test is designed to assess the English proficiency and quantitative skills necessary to do the MPhil (BEc) programme and the level of intelligence of the candidates. However, if there are fewer than 50 applicants, suitable candidates will be selected based on a formal interview to assess their required competencies to follow the programme.

- iii. A formal interview will then be conducted for those who have fulfilled the eligibility requirements specified in Section 3 above. The interview has the following objectives:
  - a. To evaluate the synopsis of the applicant's proposed study.
  - b. To assess the verbal competence in English; and
  - c. To assess the candidate's motivation for higher studies and the commitment to pursue the programme to its completion.

Final selection will be done after the consideration of the total marks obtained at the aptitude test (optional) and the interview.

### **3. Graduate Seminars in Business Economics**

Graduate Seminars are supplementary progress seminar series offered for MPhil. students where their research progress would be assessed monthly after completing their course work i.e. six months after commencing the course. For the entire course, each student should present their research progress at four graduate seminars.

#### **MBE 6001 GRADUATE SEMINAR IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS I**

This is a supplementary lecture series offered for the students of the MPhil. programme. Students are expected to present their research progress at the graduate seminar and the supervisors of the presenting students will take part as the panel members of the seminar. The MPhil coordinator may invite other supervisors or experts to provide comments at this seminar. Thus, the seminar will assist graduate students by providing critical reviews, inputs, and feedback for their research work from the peer graduate students and their supervisors/panel members. This graduate seminar meets once a month in the second semester of Year I and four seminars will be held in this semester.

#### **MBE 6002 GRADUATE SEMINAR IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS II**

This is a continuation of the Graduate Seminar in Business Economics I. Students are expected to present their analytical findings at the graduate seminar and the supervisors of the presenting students will take part as the panel members. This graduate seminar meets once a month in the second semester of Year II and four seminars will be held in this semester.

Please note that the principal and co-supervisor of the student need to participate in these progress meetings. If required contents are not covered during the Graduate Seminar I and II the final result would be "Fail and Incomplete". The evaluation criteria of the Graduate Seminar are as follows;



Method	Breakdown of Marks	Marks as a percentage (%)
Live Presentation	Progress of the Research 30	50
	Active Engagement in Q/A 20	
Participation	Attendance 30	50
	Active Engagement in Q/A 20	
Total		100

The final result of Graduate Seminars will be published as “Pass” or “Fail”.

- Marks  $\geq 50$ : “Pass”
- Marks  $< 50$ : “Fail”

#### 4. Proposal Preparation and Defense Guidelines

The MPhil in Business Economics encourages and supports the wide range of dissertation topics and methodologies generated from the study of economics and business. The thesis proposal represents a formal understanding between the supervisors and the MPhil candidate. This agreement outlines the work to be done and the intellectual rigor the Board of Examiners expects from the candidate. The supervisor would have the role of an observer and cannot defend the students during the Proposal Defense. The proposal functions as a map guiding the candidate toward the effective completion of the thesis project.

##### The Structure of Thesis Proposal

The MPhil candidate should work closely with the principal and the co-supervisor(s) in determining the composition of the thesis proposal and in writing the proposal.

The proposal should contain details sufficient to describe the background and significance, the rationale for the problem (justification of the research problem) and the work plan in completing the thesis. The following list of elements should be included in the thesis proposal.

- Statement of the Problem – includes the background, key questions, significance of the problem, and description of the chosen methodology.
- Grounding and Rationale – provides a discussion of the need in the area of study which may include a comprehensive review of theoretical, conceptual or methodological precedents that directly relate to the research topic. This section may also include a detailed analysis of the precedents that justify the need for the research or review the literature that relates to the research in establishing the research gap. Provide a summary table of the empirical review in the appendix.
- Research Objectives – This should include primary and secondary objectives.
- Research Methodology – Description of the research methodology, methods to be used in the analysis etc.
- Research Plan – The work plan to complete the research project.
- Reference List
- Appendices

## **Word Limit**

The proposal should be no more than 10000 words, inclusive of tables, references, figure captions, endnotes.

## **Reference style**

In writing the proposal the candidates should adhere to the APA (6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>) reference style. View the [APA](#) guidelines to ensure your proposal conforms to this reference style.

## **Similarity Index**

The proposal may be checked with duplication-checking software. The overall similarity index should be less than 25% and the individual paper similarity index per each source should be less than 1%. Where the proposal submitted is found to have plagiarized other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where the authorship of the proposal is contested, the Coordinator and the Board of Examiners reserve the right to take action to re-submit the proposal.

Please note: The Candidate should submit three (03) hard copies of the research proposal to the MPhil in the Business Economics office one week prior to the proposal defense.

## **5.Oral Presentation**

The proposal must be defended before a committee comprising the principal supervisor, co-supervisor(s), one member associated with an academic discipline from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) and one member from outside the USJ. The oral presentation will be open to fellow MPhil candidates as well as the academic staff of the Department. The supervisor(s) will act as an observer(s).

## **Structure of the Oral Presentation**

The candidates are required to develop their presentations according to the following guidelines.

Content of the Slide Show:

- a) Introduction
- b) Research Problem/Question
- c) Research Objective(s)
- d) Significance and Justification
- e) Brief Literature Survey
- f) Research Approach, Methodology and Conceptual Framework

The number of Slides in the presentation should be limited to 15- 20 slides.

Time allocated: 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for Q & A.

Please Note: Submit 3 hard copies of the PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Examiners (Print on both sides, 4 slides on one page, in landscape orientation)

*In the case of virtual presentation, the candidate needs to submit only the softcopies of the above mentioned documents to the Coordinator of the programme.*

## **6. Writing MPhil Dissertation**

The students should adhere to the instructions provided in the FGS Handbook, which is produced by the Faculty of Graduate Studies when writing their final dissertation.

### 3. Master of Science in Business Economics: MSc (BEc)





M.Sc. programme is a two years Master's degree programme which is equivalent to the SLQF Level 10. The programme has been structured in a manner that will benefit professionals from both the corporate and government sectors. This programme has been designed to enhance the theoretical knowledge and analytical skills of the candidates who undertake the degree program. Additionally, successful graduates of this programme will be able to analyse practical and theoretical research problems using advanced analytical techniques.

### **3.1 Programme Objectives**

The general objective of this programme is to impart economics skills and managerial skills, necessary to deal with the challenges posed by the increasingly complex and rapidly changing business environment. The specific objectives of this programme are three-fold.

- (1) Guide corporate/public sector employees to make rational business/policy decisions.
- (2) Promote employment in National and International Organizations by providing opportunities to acquire the required postgraduate qualifications.
- (3) Guide graduate students to pursue their Doctoral studies.

### **3.2 Programme Structure**

#### **3.2.1 Selection of Specialization Areas**

This programme offers two options for its applicants and the details are presented under Option A and Option B.

##### ***Option A***

This option is offered for the candidates who wish to pursue an international career, an academic career, or who wish to pursue further studies in their specialization area. In the Year I, the students will undergo a thorough training in theoretical aspects and its applications. In the Year II, students are allowed to select a specialized area out of four major specialization areas offered by the Department. Under this option, a greater priority will be given to the research component in the Second Year. The specialization areas are stated below along with their descriptions.

##### **➤ Specialization Area: Development Studies (DS)**

This is an interdisciplinary study area, which trains the students to understand the complex processes of economic development and to solve development problems. It deals with theoretical, empirical, as well as practical dimensions of economic development. The students who specialize in this area will be equipped with the skills of policy studies, policymaking, analysis, and evaluation. Moreover, this study programme offers many options at the postgraduate level for students who are willing to engage in advanced studies. The employment opportunities available for graduates are also numerous at many local and international institutions such as the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations.

➤ Specialization Area: Policy Analysis (PA)

The Policy Analysis programme encompasses areas that deal with methodical evaluation of the alternative approaches to solve economic issues, both in microeconomic and macroeconomic perspectives. The students, who specialize in this area will be equipped with the skills of policy evaluation, project evaluation and programme evaluation. In addition, this course provides students a comprehensive training in quantitative application of various econometric applications to determine the effectiveness of policy outcomes. Additionally, this study programme offers many options at the Postgraduate Level for the students who are willing to engage in advanced studies. The employment opportunities are also numerous, in particular, at international institutions such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank and United Nations.

➤ Specialization Area: Women's Studies (WS)

Women's Studies take an interdisciplinary approach to the field of gender. The students, who specialize in this specialization area, in the course of their inquiry, will learn the ways that women function as a key organizing element in all societies and cultures. They will learn not only to view gender as a category of investigation, but also reflect on the different manifestations of gender in their own day-to-day lives. The Women's Studies course will keep the students informed about, and sensitive to, issues concerning women, women in the work place, and issues that one faces in their day to day lives. These courses will help the students to understand them; understand how knowledge and value take multiplicity of forms depending on a variety of social variables. The programme is specially designed for women, however, men, who recognise the importance of women in today's economy, are thus encouraged to apply.

➤ Specialization Area: Banking (BNK)

This study area encompasses a range of disciplines in bank management, central banking, monetary policy analysis and financial system analysis. At the end of this study programme, students should be able to gain the expertise to manage a firm mitigating the risks in the financial system. The specialized nature of this area will enable the students to hold top level management positions at institutions, especially in the banking and finance sector such as the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Security and Exchange Commission, commercial banks and other financial institutions.

***Option B***

This option is offered as a general programme in the M.Sc. programme and it caters mainly to the employees of the corporate sector and the public sector. This option enables the students to participate in workshops and guest lectures conducted by world class leaders and practitioners in the business world during the Second Year of the programme. Guest lectures and domestic workshops will be based on current economic affairs and application of economics into the real world. At the same time, the students would receive first-hand experience in organizing and running projects by implementing an individual project in the Second Year of the programme.

### 3.2.2 Subject Combinations

Subject combinations and credit allocations for the respective specialization areas are presented in Tables 3.1 to 3.4. According to the tables, all the students enrolled for the M.Sc. programme; both *Option A* and *Option B*, would have to cover the same number of credits in the First Year through course work, whereas in the Second Year, students who opted the *Option A* would have to cover 6 additional credits from course works. Students who selected *Option B* will earn 15 credits through Overseas Field Works (OFW)/ Domestic Field Works (DFW), workshops and project work in the Second Year. All the students who follow the M.Sc. programme, irrespective of the selected options; A or B, need to complete a research project by the end of the Second Year.

Subject Selection Criteria;

- **Core Course Units:** The core course units which have to be followed during the first semester of the First Year are stated in respective tables of the programme structure. Core courses are compulsory for students who have enrolled in the M.Sc. programme. Each core course unit amounts to 03 credits or 150 notional hours. Notional hours of each course unit consist of 45 hours of lecturing, 5 hours of assessments, and 100 hours of learning.
- **Recommended/Elective Course Units:** The recommended/elective course units that will be offered during the second semester of the First Year are stated in the respective Tables. Each recommended/elective course unit amounts to 03 credits or 150 notional hours. Notional hours of each course unit consist of 45 hours of lecturing, 5 hours for assessments, and 100 hours of learning. Students are supposed to complete a minimum of 5-course units to earn 15 credits in this semester. Recommended course units and elective course units are separately presented in respective tables on the programme structure (Table 3.1 to 3.5) and the selection of courses will be dependent on the selected option; either A or B, and the selected specialization areas as follows;
  - Option A:** at least 3 recommended course units from the selected specialization areas
  - Option B:** any 5 courses from Table 3.5 including MBE 5209 Development Project Management
- **Specialization Course Units:** Students who opted the *Option A* in the M.Sc. programme would have to complete two specialized subjects through course works in the first semester of the Second Year. Each specialization course unit amounts to 03 credits or 150 notional. Notional hours of each course unit consist of 45 hours for lecturing, 5 hours for assessments and 100 hours for learning.
- **OFW/DFW, Workshops and Project Works:** The students who selected *Option B* in the M.Sc. programme would complete a series of OFW/DFW (MBE 6108: Overseas Field Works/ MBE 6109: Domestic Field Works), workshops (MBE 6110: Workshops) and projects work (MBE 6111: Project) during the Second Year. Students should choose either OFW or DFW at the beginning of the Second Year and OFW/DFW accounts for 6 credits of the M.Sc. programme. Additionally, the students will be required to participate at several workshops which will be organised on various themes such as current economic issues, and

day to day economic affairs such as budget and policy changes, etc. Students will be able to earn 3 credits by participating at these workshops. Furthermore, the students who selected *Option B* should complete an individual project by the end of Year Two.

- **Research Project/Dissertation:** The objective of this component is to guide the students to apply underlying principles of research methodology in Business Economics at individual, group, and institutional level. Although the research component is common to both options; A and B, the credits allocated are different. The *Option A* has 24 credits (2400 notional hours) under the research component while *Option B* has only 15 credits (1500 notional hours). Under the *Option A* students are required to complete this component at a standard equivalent to a Dissertation (MBE 6201: Dissertation and viva) and the research area should be selected from the student's respective specialization area. However, under the *Option B* students can select a research topic from any of the areas covered under their previous courses (MBE 6202: Research Project). The research will be carried out under the guidance of senior supervisors who have obtained expertise and experience in the relevant field of study.

### Programme Structures of the Master of Science in Business Economics

Table 3.1: Programme Structure for the specialization area; Development Studies (Option A)

Course Code	Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
<b>Year I –Semester I</b>				
MBE 5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE 5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5104	Research Methods	Core	45	03
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester I</b>				<b>15</b>
<b>Year I –Semester II</b>				
At least three courses have to be from the Recommended Courses				
MBE 5206	Development Economics	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5209	Development Project Management	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5211	Time Series Econometrics	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5212	International Trade and Financing	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Recommended	45	03
At most two courses to be from Electives				



MBE	5207	International Business	Elective	45	03
MBE	5213	Gender and Development	Elective	45	03
MBE	5214	Advanced Financial Management	Elective	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester II</b>					<b>15</b>
<b>Year II –Semester I</b>					
MBE	6101	Strategies for Development	Core	45	03
MBE	6102	Advanced Econometrics II	Core	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester I</b>					<b>06</b>
<b>Throughout Year II</b>					
MBE	6201	Dissertation and viva *	Core	360	24
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester II</b>					<b>24</b>

\*Note: The Dissertation related work will begin in Year II semester I

Table 3.2: Programme Structure for the Specialization Area; Policy Analysis (Option A)

Course Code	Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
Year I –Semester I				
MBE 5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE 5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5104	Research Methods	Core	45	03
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I				15
Year I –Semester II				
At least three courses have to be from the Recommended Courses				
MBE 5206	Development Economics	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5207	International Business	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5209	Development Project Management	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5211	Time Series Econometrics	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5212	International Trade and Financing	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5214	Advanced Financial Management	Recommended	45	03
At most two courses to be from Electives				
MBE 5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Elective	45	03
MBE 5213	Gender and Development	Elective	45	03
MBE 5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Elective	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester II				15

Year II –Semester I					
MBE	6102	Advanced Econometrics II	Core	45	03
MBE	6103	Programme Evaluation Techniques	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I					06
Throughout Year II					
MBE	6201	Dissertation and viva *	Core	360	24
Total No. of Credits – Semester II					24

\*Note: The Dissertation related work will begin in Year II semester I

Table 3.3: Programme Structure for the specialization area; Women’s Studies (Option A)

Course Code	Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
Year I –Semester I				
MBE 5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE 5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5104	Research Methods	Core	45	03
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I				15
Year I –Semester II				
At least three courses have to be from the Recommended Courses				
MBE 5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Elective (Recommended)	45	03
MBE 5213	Gender and Development	Elective (Recommended)	45	03
MBE 5214	Advanced Financial Management	Elective (Recommended)	45	03
At most two courses to be from Electives				
MBE 5206	Development Economics	Elective	45	03
MBE 5207	International Business	Elective	45	03
MBE 5209	Development Project Management	Elective	45	03
MBE 5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Elective	45	03
MBE 5211	Time Series Econometrics	Elective	45	03
MBE 5212	International Trade and Financing	Elective	45	03
MBE 5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Elective	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester II				15
Year II –Semester I				
MBE 6104	Feminist Economics	Core	45	03
MBE 6105	Women in Asian Culture	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I				06

Throughout Year II				
MBE 6201	Dissertation and viva *	Core	360	24
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester II</b>				<b>24</b>

\*Note: The Dissertation related work will begin in Year II semester I

Table 3.4: Programme Structure for the specialization area; Banking (Option A)

Course Code	Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
<b>Year I –Semester I</b>				
MBE 5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE 5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5104	Research Methods	Core	45	03
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester I</b>				<b>15</b>
<b>Year I –Semester II</b>				
At least three courses have to be from Recommended Courses				
MBE 5206	Development Economics	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5207	International Business	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5214	Advanced Financial Management	Recommended	45	03
MBE 5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Recommended	45	03
At most two courses to be from Electives				
MBE 5209	Development Project Management	Elective	45	03
MBE 5211	Time Series Econometrics	Elective	45	03
MBE 5212	International Trade and Financing	Elective	45	03
MBE 5213	Gender and Development	Elective	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester II</b>				<b>15</b>
<b>Year II –Semester I</b>				
MBE 6106	Financial System Environment	Core	45	03
MBE 6107	Financial Analysis	Core	45	03
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester I</b>				<b>06</b>
<b>Throughout Year II</b>				
MBE 6201	Dissertation and viva *	Core	360	24
<b>Total No. of Credits – Semester II</b>				<b>24</b>

\*Note: The Dissertation related work will begin in Year II semester I

Table 3.5: Structure of the General Programme

Course Code		Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
Year I –Semester I					
MBE	5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE	5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE	5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE	5104	Research Methods	Core	45	03
MBE	5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I					15
Year I –Semester II					
Any five courses from the following table					
MBE	5206	Development Economics	Elective	45*5	3*5
MBE	5207	International Business	Elective		
MBE	5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Elective		
MBE	5209	Development Project Management	Elective		
MBE	5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Elective		
MBE	5211	Time Series Econometrics	Elective		
MBE	5212	International Trade and Financing	Elective		
MBE	5213	Gender and Development	Elective		
MBE	5214	Advanced Financial Management	Elective		
MBE	5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Elective		
Total No. of Credits – Semester II					15
Year II –Semester I					
MBE	6108	Overseas Field Works	Elective	90	06
MBE	6109	Domestic Field Works	Elective	90	06
MBE	6110	Workshops	Core	90	06
MBE	6111	Individual Project	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I					15
Year II –Semester II					
MBE	6202	Research Project	Core	225	15
Total No. of Credits – Semester II					15

Note – Refer Annexure 9 for the detailed programme structure of each of the specialization areas and the general programme.



### **3.3 Course Descriptions**

#### **MBE 5101 Strategic Management**

The aim of this course is to cultivate the strategic orientation among the participants, primarily concerning of managing modern day organizations for their long-term survival and growth. Further, this course intends to address the process of strategic management and the emerging strategic issues of an organization in a complex and turbulent business environment. It also provides the opportunity to learn the art of gaining and retaining competitive advantages for an organization over its competitors. As overall the course brings the integrated knowledge in order to manage the organizations holistically and to understand how such organizations could formulate and implement good strategies.

#### **MBE 5102 Advanced Microeconomics**

The aims of this course are to develop analytical tools of microeconomics and provide the economic intuition behind the decision-making process of individuals as well as firms. Topics include consumer theory, producer theory, market structures & competition, general equilibrium analysis, choice under uncertainty, static and dynamic games, the economics of information and asymmetric information, and pricing in input markets. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand academic papers representing the research frontier of microeconomic theory.

#### **MBE 5103 Advanced Macroeconomics**

The aim of this course is to deliver methodological understanding and analytical skills of modern macroeconomics theory. The course covers growth theories and applications in Module 1. Empirical validity of those models will be confronted using cross-country data and other empirical findings. Fiscal and monetary policies, business cycles and financial crises will be introduced in Module 2. Finally, general equilibrium analysis will be introduced in Module 3. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand academic papers representing the research frontier of macroeconomics theory.

#### **MBE 5104 Research Methods**

The purpose of this graduate level course in research methods is to prepare students for performing and executing effective research studies in their specialization areas. The course is designed to provide an extensive knowledge on designing scientific inquiries, identifying interesting research problems, selecting research methods, and techniques used in social sciences, in general, and in Business Economics, in particular. Both quantitative research designs and qualitative research designs will be discussed and detailed explanation of various research methods, i.e., surveys, case studies, and experiments, in relation to social sciences will be provided. In addition, a thorough training in academic writing and referencing style will be provided towards the end of the course. At the end, the students should be able to develop a research proposal of their prospective study.

### **MBE 5105 Applied Econometrics**

The course intends to provide an intermediate knowledge and skills in econometrics that enables students to understand the modern empirical economics and business management literature. The course begins with basic methods for analysis of economic data and simple regression formulation and will progress gradually towards more specific techniques used for time-series and cross-sectional data. The areas covered under this course include estimation of simple regression models, estimation of multiple regression models, remedial measures for multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation problems, qualitative response regression models, time-series econometrics and panel data regression models. The main feature of the course is the use of computer-based exercises, which will enable students to gain practical experience in analysing a wide variety of econometric applications and apply them to their own research works.

### **MBE 5206 Development Economics**

Due to the uniqueness of development problems from one case to another, and the more complex nature of them in the modern world, students should understand the conventional development principles as well as unconventional approaches to address development issues. The course starts with an introduction to economic development with special emphasis on the nature & importance of Development Economics, traditional measures of economic growth, new economic views of development, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Then the course extends its scope to comparative development concepts, classical theories of economic growth & development, contemporary models of development & underdevelopment, crucial development problems such as poverty, income inequality, urbanization and rural-urban migration and skilled migration. At the end of the course students will be able to critically evaluate the development policies in developing countries.

### **MBE 5207 International Business**

This course provides an overview of international organizations and explores theories of International Trade and Investment. It gives emphasis to areas such as the role of multinationals and their entry strategies, functions of global monetary systems and practical applications of starting and maintaining international business relationships. This course also helps students familiarize with globalization and its impact on international businesses. By the end of this course, the students would have developed the skills to analyse and evaluate issues related to international organizations.

### **MBE 5208 Legal & Regulatory Environment**

This course provides a general understanding of the importance of law to businesses and economics. The course also outlines the ways in which business and commerce are conducted in Sri Lanka today with reference to the international development where necessary. Contents of the course will help students to develop their decision-making skills and to emphasize the importance of complying with rules and regulations. The course mainly covers law relating to Banking, Human Rights with special emphasis on non-discrimination and gender studies, International Trade, moral issues in workplace and National Security. Knowledge of the contents imparted in this course will also help students considerably in their future careers.

### **MBE 5209 Development Project Management**

The aims of this course are to provide the students with an advanced knowledge and skills in project management and its application in development project management. The course covers the project phases: initiation, planning, executing, controlling and project closing with essential project techniques, which include project cycle management, participatory planning in projects and benefit-cost analysis. Special emphasis will be given to the allocation effects of public projects, non-market valuation techniques and shadow pricing in projects. In addition, the students will be trained to apply the MS Project software when and where necessary. The course includes relevant case study discussions, student projects, and guest lectures.

### **MBE 5210 Advanced Econometrics I**

This course presents a comprehensive treatment of econometrics methods in cross-sectional and longitudinal data. The course covers techniques to overcome endogeneity effects in econometric models with special emphasis on Instrumental Variables method. Fixed Effects and Random Effect models in panel data and qualitative dependent variables with special emphasis on censored and truncated dependent variables also will be discussed. At the end of the course, students should have acquired the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out their own empirical analyses.

### **MBE 5211 Time Series Econometrics**

This course presents a comprehensive treatment of econometric methods in time series econometrics. The objectives are to impart theoretical knowledge and enhance the application skills of time series analysis in Economics, Finance, Marketing, and other Management disciplines. The module 1 of this course will introduce the basic concepts i.e. basic time-series models, Cobweb models, solving deterministic process and lag operators, ARMA, stochastic processes, stationarity, the autocorrelation function and the partial autocorrelation. Then, modeling time-series for trends and volatility will introduce in Module 2. This includes ARCH processes, GARCH models, deterministic and stochastic trends, removing trends and univariate decompositions. In addition, testing for trends and unit roots using Dickey-Fuller test will be discussed in this module. Advanced time-series topics such as VAR analysis, impulse response functions, structural decomposition, cointegration and error-correction models will be introduced in Model 3. Students will be trained to estimate time-series models using software packages to enhance the practical application of the knowledge.

### **MBE 5212 International Trade and Financing**

This course aims to provide the students with an understanding of international trade theory and practice of international trade and trade-related policies. It will also emphasize both traditional, neo-classical trade theory as well as the more modern strategic trade theory. The course focuses on analysing the gains from trade, the changing patterns of trade, the income distributional consequences of liberalising foreign trade, the relationship between trade, investment, and economic growth, and the reasons for and consequences of trade policies.

### **MBE 5213 Gender and Development**

This course will deal with gender issues in development looking at how the measures and processes of development are gendered. After providing an overview of gender differences in various aspects of human life, the course will examine a number of gender-related issues with special reference case studies from the South. Among them are issues in the measurement of gender inequality, causes and effects of gender inequality in education, labour force participation, and earnings, the causes and extent of gender inequality in mortality, issues relating to household production, fertility, and intra-household resource allocation, gender and development in the context of crisis and conflict, and the place of men in development discourse.

### **MBE 5214 Advanced Financial Management**

This is an advanced course in Financial Management. Throughout the course, the students are able to develop their knowledge on concepts such as corporate value & value-based management, option pricing with application to real options, financing decisions, mergers, acquisitions, financial distress and restructuring and risk management. The analyses are made from the perspective of the decision maker or the viewpoint of the analyst. The course also discusses Contemporary issues in financial management. Students get the opportunity to analyze cases using concepts and techniques of corporate finance to address problems faced by finance managers.

### **MBE 5215 Information Technology and Innovations**

This is a study of the strategic significance of information technology (IT) and innovation within organisations. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and appropriate practical understanding required to successfully manage IT. The course covers elements of innovation strategy; accepting the challenge, the innovation process, the importance of technological innovation for competitiveness, formulating and implementing strategy and delivering values, managing research & development, new product development, collaboration and commercialization, and production and operations. The course also covers ethical, legal, security and social issues, and responsibilities in information technology.

### **MBE 6101 Strategies for Development**

This is an advanced-level course that helps the students to critically evaluate development strategies and their contemporary application in the context of developing countries. The course aims to deliver necessary theoretical and empirical knowledge to engage in rigorous analysis of development strategies implemented in developed and fast-growing developing countries and assess the applicability of such policies for less-developed countries. At depth, this course intends to review the theoretical and empirical validity of trade liberalization policies, growth models, innovations and technology adoption, human capital theory, industrial policies, and poverty alleviation strategies. In addition, the role of various institutions such as government,



the private sector, community and international organisations in shaping the development process of less-developed countries will be discussed.

### **MBE 6102 Advanced Econometrics II**

This is an extension of MBE 5210 Advanced Econometrics I. The aim of this course is to further enhance the students' expertise in handling cross-sectional and longitudinal data using advanced econometrics methods. The course covers dynamic panel data models, duration analysis and Generalized Methods of Moments (GMM) estimations. At the end of the course, students should have acquired the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out their own empirical analyses.

### **MBE 6103 Programme Evaluation Techniques**

This course introduces students to methods and models (both qualitative and quantitative) of programme evaluation. It aims to make the students capable of evaluating the impacts of different policies and programmes at micro as well as macro level. The course would contain methods to evaluate the impact of programmes before implementation as a forecasting measure as well as post implementation (essentially longitudinal methods). The course extends its scope to other areas of evaluation i.e., techniques and models for individual and portfolio of projects, monitoring of programmes, operational evaluation, comparative models, relative value models and programme portfolio diagrams. Amongst these techniques; randomized evaluations, propensity score matching, double-difference methods, use of instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity and pipeline approaches will be commonly discussed. Furthermore, students will be able to address and account for selection bias in participation. By the end of the course the students would be fully equipped to evaluate policies and programmes in the complex, challenging and uncertain economic climate.

### **MBE 6104 Feminist Economics**

This course will critically analyse both economic theory and economic life from the perspective of gender, and advise various forms of feminist economic transformation. It will examine the areas of feminist economics understudied or ignored in traditional economics - gender discrimination in the labour market, the economics of the household, and caring labour, to name a few - as well as feminist economic policy prescriptions. The course will also look at feminist critiques of and alternatives to mainstream economics methodology and view of "economic man," the firm, and the economy itself. Other themes in the course will be racial-ethnic, class, and country differences among women, and the emergence of the solidarity economy.

### **MBE 6105 Women in Asian Culture**

This course explores the experiences and representations of Asian women, from ancient times to contemporary era. It will investigate how Asian womanhood is constructed, institutionalized, appropriated, re-invented, and re-interpreted in different socio-historical discourses. Interrogating the mechanisms that tend to reinforce and perpetuate Asian women's subordination and marginalization, the course will look at women's negotiation of their gender

roles, self-identity, and agency. Situating Asian women in national, regional and global contexts, it will also explore their interface with sexuality and gender, family and patriarchy, class and race, social justice, conflict and post-conflict settings, nation-building, modernity, (post)colonialism, consumerism, and globalization.

### **MBE 6106 Financial System Environment**

This course provides students with a broad understanding of how the domestic and global financial systems work. This course includes money market, capital market, interest rate behavior and its impact on macro economy, commercial banking sector, savings associations and credit unions, insurance management, investment banks, finance companies, risk management in financial institutions and regulatory framework of financial institutions. At end of the course, students will be able to broadly understand the functions of the financial system and critically analyse the issues and challenges of financial institutions.

### **MBE 6107 Financial Analysis**

The course analyses comprehensive financial statements, and exposes to valuation framework that integrates strategy, financial reporting, financial analysis and valuation, and the application of this framework to fundamental analysis. Within the valuation framework that integrates a firm's strategy, performance, and accounting credibility, the course examines 'value' identifying key value drivers and risks. It essentially discusses a firm's underlying business reality, assessing earnings quality. The course applies the framework to a variety of business valuation contexts, including equity-investment analysis, IPOs, and mergers. The content covers techniques in evaluating current performance and its future sustainability, making forecasts of future profitability and risk, and valuing businesses using earnings and book value data.

### **MBE 6108 Overseas Field Works**

The aim of this programme is to give a practical exposure to conduct surveys in the context of a foreign country. This programme is offered for the students who have selected *Option B* of the M.Sc. Programme. The program consists of several stages and focus of OFW would be on firm-level studies. Firstly, there will be a pre-departure seminar on selecting research topics and drafting research plan. Secondly, students participate at the overseas field work for the purpose of collecting data/information from overseas firms. Lastly, students should present their research findings and submit a field report by the stipulated deadline.

### **MBE 6109 Domestic Field Works**

The aim of this programme is to give a practical exposure to conduct surveys in the context of Sri Lanka. This programme offers for the students who have selected *Option B* of the M.Sc. Programme. The program consists of several stages and the focus will be on household-level studies. Firstly, there will be a pre-workshop seminar on selecting research topics and drafting research plan. Secondly, students should participate at a residential workshop organised in the research site and conduct the necessary surveys. Lastly, students should present their research findings and submit a field report by the stipulated deadline.

### **MBE 6110 Workshops**

This course enables the students to participate in workshops and guest lectures conducted by world class leaders and practitioners in the business world during the Second Year of the programme. Guest lectures and domestic workshops will be based on current economic affairs and application of economics into the real world. Detailed structure of the programme will be published in student's handbook.

### **MBE 6111 Project**

This course requires the students to carry out an individual project which addresses a contemporary national issue. This project could be a social welfare project, corporate social responsibility project or organizing of an event or workshop such as a Marketing Campaign or a Promotion of a product. The projects are supervised by the assigned supervisors of the programme and the funding for the project need to be arranged by the student by fund raising activities or through sponsorships. It is expected to develop the intellectual and analytical skills of the students through this course unit.

### **MBE 6201 Dissertation and viva**

Detailed guidelines will be published in student's handbook.

### **MBE 6202 Research Project**

Detailed guidelines will be published in student's handbook.

## 4. Master of Business Economics: MBEc



The Master of Business Economics; MBEC Programme is a one-year degree programme, which is equivalent to the Level 9 of SLQF. This programme is specially designed for private sector and public sector employees enhance their critical thinking and strategic decision making ability.

#### **4.1 Programme Objectives**

The main objective of this programme is to provide graduates a comprehensive theoretical grounding in the discipline of Business Economics along with its application in business decision making and public policy formulation.

A graduate of this degree programme should be able to;

- Demonstrate a theoretical knowledge and understanding of the main aspects in Business Economics.
- Use practical knowledge and skills effectively and efficiently in applying the techniques necessary to collect, analyze and interpret data in management and economic decision making.
- Conduct independent studies to address problems in the field of Business Economics.

#### **4.2 Programme Structure**

The students who enrolled for this programme will have to complete 5 core courses in the first semester. In the second semester, students should complete a minimum of 4 course units from the elective courses. Each course unit amounts to 03 credits or 150 notional hours. Notional hours of each course unit consist of 45 hours of lecturing, 5 hours of assessments and 100 hours of learning. Table 4.1 shows the course structure in detail.

In addition, candidates will complete a research paper in the second semester; MBE 5216 Research Paper in Business Economics, which is a continuation of MBE 5104 Research Methods. In total, six credits have been allocated for the research works of the candidates. This independent research paper will be supervised by a senior lecturer who has the expertise in the selected research area.



Table 4.1 Structure of the MBEC programme

Course Code	Course Title	Course Status	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
<b>Year I – Semester I</b>				
MBE 5101	Strategic Management	Core	45	03
MBE 5102	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5103	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	45	03
MBE 5104	Research Methods*	Core	45	03
MBE 5105	Applied Econometrics	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester I				15
<b>Year I – Semester II</b>				
Any four elective courses and MBE 5216 from the following list				
MBE 5206	Development Economics	Elective	45 (contact hours)*4 (courses)	3(credit hours)*4 (courses)=12
MBE 5207	International Business	Elective		
MBE 5208	Legal & Regulatory Environment	Elective		
MBE 5209	Development Project Management	Elective		
MBE 5210	Advanced Econometrics I	Elective		
MBE 5211	Time Series Econometrics	Elective		
MBE 5212	International Trade and Financing	Elective		
MBE 5213	Gender and Development	Elective		
MBE 5214	Advanced Financial Management	Elective		
MBE 5215	Information Technology and Innovations	Elective		
MBE 5216	Research Paper in Business Economic*	Core	45	03
Total No. of Credits – Semester II				15

\*Note: The independent study related work will account to a total of 6 credits (MBE 5104 + MBE 5216), which is 20% of the total credits allocated to the programme. The research selection, literature review and proposal development will be done at the course unit MBE 5104 Research Methods (3 credits). Data collection, analysis and report writing will be done at the course unit MBE 5216 Research Paper in Business Economic (3 credits).

### 4.3 Course Descriptions

#### MBE 5101 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

The aim of this course is to cultivate the strategic orientation among the participants, primarily concerning of managing modern day organizations for their long-term survival and growth. Further, this course intends to address the process of strategic management and the emerging strategic issues of an organization in a complex and turbulent business environment. It also provides the opportunity to learn the art of gaining and retaining competitive advantages for an organization over its competitors. As overall the course brings the integrated knowledge in order to manage the organizations holistically and to understand how such organizations could formulate and implement good strategies.

### **MBE 5102 ADVANCED MICROECONOMICS**

The aims of this course are to develop analytical tools of microeconomics and provide the economic intuition behind the decision-making process of individuals as well as firms. Topics include consumer theory, producer theory, market structures & competition, general equilibrium analysis, choice under uncertainty, static and dynamic games, the economics of information and asymmetric information, and pricing in input markets. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand academic papers representing the research frontier of microeconomic theory.

### **MBE 5103: ADVANCED MACROECONOMICS**

The aim of this course is to deliver methodological understanding and analytical skills of modern macroeconomics theory. The course covers growth theories and applications in Module 1. Empirical validity of those models will be confronted using cross-country data and other empirical findings. Fiscal and monetary policies, business cycles and financial crises will be introduced in Module 2. Finally, general equilibrium analysis will be introduced in Module 3. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand academic papers representing the research frontier of macroeconomics theory.

### **MBE 5104: RESEARCH METHODS**

The purpose of this graduate level course in research methods is to prepare students for performing and executing effective research studies in their specialization areas. The course is designed to provide an extensive knowledge on designing scientific inquiries, identifying interesting research problems, selecting research methods, and techniques used in social sciences, in general, and in Business Economics, in particular. Both quantitative research designs and qualitative research designs will be discussed and detailed explanation of various research methods, i.e., surveys, case studies, and experiments, in relation to social sciences will be provided. In addition, a thorough training in academic writing and referencing style will be provided towards the end of the course. At the end, the students should be able to develop a research proposal of their prospective study.

### **MBE 5105 APPLIED ECONOMETRICS**

The course intends to provide an intermediate knowledge and skills in econometrics that enables students to understand the modern empirical economics and business management literature. The course begins with basic methods for analysis of economic data and simple regression formulation and will progress gradually towards more specific techniques used for time-series and cross-sectional data. The areas covered under this course include estimation of simple regression models, estimation of multiple regression models, remedial measures for multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation problems, qualitative response regression models, time-series econometrics and panel data regression models. The main feature of the course is the use of computer-based exercises, which will enable students to gain practical experience in analysing a wide variety of econometric applications and apply them to their own research works.

### **MBE 5206: DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**

Due to the uniqueness of development problems from one case to another, and the more complex nature of them in the modern world, students should understand the conventional development principles as well as unconventional approaches to address development issues. The course starts with an introduction to economic development with special emphasis on the nature & importance of Development Economics, traditional measures of economic growth, new economic views of development, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Then the course extends its scope to comparative development concepts, classical theories of economic growth & development, contemporary models of development & underdevelopment, crucial development problems such as poverty, income inequality, urbanization and rural-urban migration and skilled migration. At the end of the course students will be able to critically evaluate the development policies in developing countries.

### **MBE 5207: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**

This course provides an overview of international organizations and explores theories of International Trade and Investment. It gives emphasis to areas such as the role of multinationals and their entry strategies, functions of global monetary systems and practical applications of starting and maintaining international business relationships. This course also helps students familiarize with globalization and its impact on international businesses. By the end of this course, the students would have developed the skills to analyse and evaluate issues related to international organizations.

### **MBE 5208: LEGAL & REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**

This course provides a general understanding of the importance of law to businesses and economics. The course also outlines the ways in which business and commerce are conducted in Sri Lanka today with reference to the international development where necessary. Contents of the course will help students to develop their decision-making skills and to emphasize the importance of complying with rules and regulations. The course mainly covers law relating to Banking, Human Rights with special emphasis on non-discrimination and gender studies, International Trade, moral issues in workplace and National Security. Knowledge of the contents imparted in this course will also help students considerably in their future careers.

### **MBE 5209: DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The aims of this course are to provide the students with an advanced knowledge and skills in project management and its application in development project management. The course covers the project phases: initiation, planning, executing, controlling and project closing with essential project techniques, which include project cycle management, participatory planning in projects and benefit-cost analysis. Special emphasis will be given to the allocation effects of public projects, non-market valuation techniques and shadow pricing in projects. In addition, the students will be trained to apply the MS Project software when and where necessary. The course includes relevant case study discussions, student projects, and guest lectures.

### **MBE 5210: ADVANCED ECONOMETRICS I**

This course presents a comprehensive treatment of econometrics methods in cross-sectional and longitudinal data. The course covers techniques to overcome endogeneity effects in econometric models with special emphasis on Instrumental Variables method. Fixed Effects and Random Effect models in panel data and qualitative dependent variables with special emphasis on censored and truncated dependent variables also will be discussed. At the end of the course, students should have acquired the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to carry out their own empirical analyses.

### **MBE 5211: TIME SERIES ECONOMETRICS**

This course presents a comprehensive treatment of econometric methods in time series econometrics. The objectives are to impart theoretical knowledge and enhance the application skills of time series analysis in Economics, Finance, Marketing, and other Management disciplines. The module 1 of this course will introduce the basic concepts i.e. basic time-series models, Cobweb models, solving deterministic process and lag operators, ARMA, stochastic processes, stationarity, the autocorrelation function and the partial autocorrelation. Then, modeling time-series for trends and volatility will introduce in Module 2. This includes ARCH processes, GARCH models, deterministic and stochastic trends, removing trends and univariate decompositions. In addition, testing for trends and unit roots using Dickey-Fuller test will be discussed in this module. Advanced time-series topics such as VAR analysis, impulse response functions, structural decomposition, cointegration and error-correction models will be introduced in Model 3. Students will be trained to estimate time-series models using software packages to enhance the practical application of the knowledge.

### **MBE 5212: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCING**

This course aims to provide the students with an understanding of international trade theory and practice of international trade and trade-related policies. It will also emphasize both traditional, neo-classical trade theory as well as the more modern strategic trade theory. The course focuses on analysing the gains from trade, the changing patterns of trade, the income distributional consequences of liberalising foreign trade, the relationship between trade, investment, and economic growth, and the reasons for and consequences of trade policies.

### **MBE 5213: GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

This course will deal with gender issues in development looking at how the measures and processes of development are gendered. After providing an overview of gender differences in various aspects of human life, the course will examine a number of gender-related issues with special reference case studies from the South. Among them are issues in the measurement of gender inequality, causes and effects of gender inequality in education, labour force participation, and earnings, the causes and extent of gender inequality in mortality, issues relating to household production, fertility, and intra-household resource allocation, gender and development in the context of crisis and conflict, and the place of men in development discourse.

#### **MBE 5214: ADVANCED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This is an advanced course in Financial Management. Throughout the course, the students are able to develop their knowledge on concepts such as corporate value & value-based management, option pricing with application to real options, financing decisions, mergers, acquisitions, financial distress and restructuring and risk management. The analyses are made from the perspective of the decision maker or the viewpoint of the analyst. The course also discusses Contemporary issues in financial management. Students get the opportunity to analyze cases using concepts and techniques of corporate finance to address problems faced by finance managers.

#### **MBE 5215: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS**

This is a study of the strategic significance of information technology (IT) and innovation within organisations. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and appropriate practical understanding required to successfully manage IT. The course covers elements of innovation strategy; accepting the challenge, the innovation process, the importance of technological innovation for competitiveness, formulating and implementing strategy and delivering values, managing research & development, new product development, collaboration and commercialization, and production and operations. The course also covers ethical, legal, security and social issues, and responsibilities in information technology.

#### **MBE 5216 RESEARCH PAPER IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS**

This is an independent research paper developed by the student under the supervision of an academic member appointed by the course coordinator. The objective of this course is to guide the students to apply the underlying principles in research methodology in Business Economics research and guide them to analyze a research problems using quantitative/qualitative methods and derive recommendations.



## 6. Admissions and Selection Procedures





## **6.1 Admission Requirements**

### **6.1.1 Admission Requirements of MPhil (BEc) Programme**

Admissions are made twice in a calendar year.

To be eligible for admission to the MPhil. programme, an applicant should hold any of the following qualifications and a sound knowledge of English language.

1. Bachelor's degree in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics special with a first or second class standing from a Recognized University.
2. Master's degree in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Professional Accounting/ Financial Management/ Applied Finance/ Entrepreneurship/ Entrepreneurial Business Management/ Real Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics from a recognized University.
3. Other qualifications equivalent to the above mentioned qualification in point 1 and 2, may be considered subject to the approval of the Senate.

### **6.1.2 Admission Requirements of MBEc & MSc (BEc) Programme**

To be eligible for admission to the MBEc programme and the MSc (BEc) Programme, an applicant should hold any of following qualifications and a sound knowledge of English.

- Bachelor's degree specializing in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics with a first or second class from a recognized University.
- Bachelor's degree specializing in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics with a General Pass standing from a recognized University and minimum three years of post-qualifying experience.
- Bachelor's degree (General) in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics with a First Class or Second Class (Upper Division) from a recognized University.

- A Postgraduate Diploma or Higher Diploma in Business Economics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Human Resource Management/ Marketing/ Accounting/ Financial Management/ Entrepreneurship/ Estate Management and Valuation/ Operations and Technology Management/ Public Administration / Business Information Systems/ Statistics/ Science/ Mathematics from a recognized University and minimum of one-year post-qualifying experience.
- Members of the following professional bodies;
  - Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL)
  - Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL)
  - Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
  - Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (ACCA)
  - Certified Management Accountants (CMA) of Sri Lanka
  - Any other recognized professional body
- One of the following professional qualifications with three-year post-qualifying relevant experience.
  - Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL)-Diploma
  - Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL)- Passed Finalist
  - Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)- Passed Finalist
  - Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (ACCA)- Affiliate
  - Certified Management Accountants (CMA) of Sri Lanka- Passed Finalist
  - Other professional qualifications equivalent to the above may be considered subject to the approval of the Senate.
- Applicants of the MBEc programme with NVQ qualification should have completed NVQ Level 07 whereas applicants of the M.Sc. programme with National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) should have completed NVQ Level 07 with a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a scale of 0-4.
- Selection is done by the Admission Board, on the basis of information provided by the applicant, including certified copies of Diploma/Degree.

## 6.2 Selection Procedure

### 6.2.1 Selection Procedure of MPhil (BEc) Programme

The selection procedure consists of the following steps:

- i. The received applications are screened to ensure that applicants meet the admission requirements.
- ii. Applicants who meet the basic requirements are called for an aptitude test. This test is designed to assess the English proficiency and quantitative skills necessary to do the MPhil (BEc) programme and the level of intelligence of the candidates.
- iii. A formal interview will then be conducted for those who obtain more than 50 percent for the aptitude test. The interview has the following objectives:
  - a. To evaluate the synopsis of the applicant's proposed study;
  - b. To assess the verbal competence in English; and
  - c. To assess the candidate's motivation for higher studies and the commitment to pursue the programme to its completion.

Final selection will be done after the consideration of the total marks obtained at the aptitude test and interview.

### **6.2.2 Selection Procedure of MBEd & MSc BEd Programme**

The selection procedure consists of the following steps:

- i. All received applications are screened to ensure that they meet the admission requirements.
- ii. Applicants who meet the basic requirements are called for an aptitude test. This test is designed to assess the English proficiency and quantitative skills necessary to do the programme and the level of intelligence of the candidates.
- iii. A formal interview will be conducted for those who obtain more than 50 percent for the aptitude test. An interview will be conducted to assess the verbal competence in English, the candidate's motivation for higher studies and the commitment to pursue the programme to its completion.

Final selection will be done by considering the total sum of marks obtained from the aptitude test and the interview.

## 7. Examinations and Evaluations



1. Candidates will be evaluated by both continuous assessments and final comprehensive written examinations. The continuous assessments may include individual assignments, group assignments, case analysis, term papers, mid-term examinations, quizzes, practical tests, oral presentations, etc. The continuous assessments would be limited to a maximum of 50 percent of the total marks. The final examination will be a written examination limited to a 3-hour paper.
2. Pass mark for each credit course would be 50% of the total marks. In order to pass a course, a candidate should have earned a minimum of 40 % marks for continuous assessments and a minimum of 40% for the final examination.
3. MBE 5215: Information Technology and Innovations course will be evaluated 100% on a continuous assessment basis.
4. The evaluation of the dissertation/ research project of the MSc (BEc) programme will be made by two independent examiners. The final marks will be the average of marks awarded by the two examiners. A viva voce examination will be conducted for the dissertation/ research project, provided that the marks of the dissertation/ research project is not less than 50%. The comments of the viva voce will be finalized into one of the sections below;
  - a. No corrections (Pass)
  - b. Minor corrections- submit within one months (Pass)
  - c. Major corrections- submit within three months (Pass)
  - d. Reject (Fail)
5. MBE 5216: Research Paper in Business Economics in MBEc programme will be evaluated based on the proposal defense, progress presentations and the final research report.
6. A candidate who repeats a course would be given a maximum of 50 marks of the repeat course. If the student has obtained the pass mark for continuous assessment or final exam that component with the pass mark may not be repeated (However if the student wishes to repeat that component that he/ she has passed, it is allowed to be done).
7. A candidate who is unable to complete a course due to a medical reason has to forward a written request together with the medical certificate to the Coordinator of the programme within 14 days and will then be able to complete the course with the next immediate batch with all privileges upon the approval of the Board of Study.
8. Excuse for absence for an examination will be granted only if the absence is due to a grave cause such as the student's serious ill health, or death of some member of the immediate family, or any other cause which is approved by the Senate. If an excuse is granted to a candidate, he/she can sit the examination on the next immediate occasion with privileges i.e. without any restriction of marks.

9. Candidates who have re-sit for a course (Medical or Absent with valid reasons) Final mark calculated considering the carried forward continuous evaluation/ end semester marks. They can sit for the repeat exam with privileges.
10. The grading system of Postgraduate Programmes in Business Economics is presented in Table 7.1. In order to calculate the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the candidates, grades obtained by each candidate at course unit examinations are evaluated using the credit hours allocated and the grades obtained for a course unit. Decimals beyond two places are truncated, not rounded, in computing the GPA.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Total number of Grade Point Value Earned}}{\text{Total number of Credit Hours}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (\text{Credit Hours})_i \times (\text{Grade Point})_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N (\text{Credit Hours})_i}$$

where i = course number; N = total number of courses considered the maximum possible GPA is 4.00 while the minimum is 0.

Table 7.1 Grading System of Credit Courses

Grade	Marks Range	Grade Point Average
A+	85-100	4.00
A	70-84	4.00
A-	65-69	3.70
B+	60-64	3.30
B	55-59	3.00
B-	50-54	2.70
C+	45-49	2.30
C	40-44	2.00
C-	35-39	1.70
D+	30-34	1.30
D	25-29	1.00
F	00-24	0.00
INC		Incomplete
MC		Medical

11. The MBEc degree will be awarded to the candidate only if he/she fulfils all the requirements of credit courses, and research paper and obtains at least a GPA of 2.7. A merit pass is awarded only if the average of the grand total exceeds 80%. The MPhil (BEc) degree will be awarded to the candidate based on the conditions stipulated in Chapter 2.
12. Effective dates of the programmes
- The effective date of the MPhil. programme will be the submission date of the thesis if there are no corrections, minor or moderate corrections. However, for major corrections/resubmissions the effective date is the date on which the revised dissertation is accepted as correct.



- b. The effective date of the MBEC programme will be the date of the final exam.
13. The plagiarism policy
- The Department considers plagiarism as a serious academic offence and the plagiarism policy of the FMSC could be accessed via <https://mgt.sjp.ac.lk/about-us/student/plagiarism-policy/>