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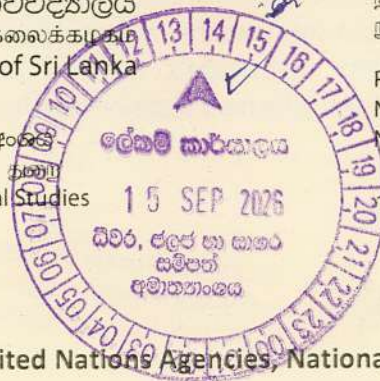
Telephone : 0112-881 221

Fax :
Email : hdssd@ou.ac.lk
Web : www.ou.ac.lk



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இலங்கை திறந்த பல்கலைக்கழகம்
The Open University of Sri Lanka

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சமூகக் கற்கைகள் துறை
Department of Social Studies



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அஞ்சற் பெட்டி 21,
நாவல்,
நுகேகோட.

P.O. Box 21,
Nawala,
Nugegoda.

0/09/2026

To: Heads of Ministries, Government Institutions, United Nations Agencies, National and International Non-Governmental Organizations

Dear Sir/Madam,

Strengthen Your Institution's Development and Policy Capacity: Master of Arts in Development Studies and Public Policy- 2026/2027

The Department of Social Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka, invites your institution to encourage suitably qualified officers and professionals to enrol in the Master of Arts in Development Studies and Public Policy. This is a distinctive two-year postgraduate programme designed to strengthen the analytical, policy and research capacities needed to address Sri Lanka's complex development challenges.

What makes this programme different?

Development problems cannot be solved effectively from a single disciplinary perspective. This programme provides an integrated framework combining Economic, Social, Political and Cultural dimensions of development, enabling professionals to see the wider picture and develop evidence-based and practical policy responses. The curriculum brings together Development Theory, Economics, Sociology, Politics and Governance, Public Policy, Sustainable Development, Development Communication, Project Management and Social Science Research.

The programme progresses through three semesters of taught courses, culminating in a 15,000-word MA Dissertation in which students apply multidisciplinary analysis to a significant development or public-policy issue. Its educational progression moves from understanding development, to analysing problems, designing public policy and conducting independent research.

The programme is particularly valuable for organizations whose staff are engaged in policy formulation, public administration, development planning, project implementation, governance, international development and social transformation. It is open to graduates from any recognized university discipline, subject to the prescribed requirement of two years of relevant professional experience.

Students benefit from a multidisciplinary academic team, including academics with doctoral qualifications from internationally recognised universities, and from the Open University's established expertise in flexible higher education.

We therefore strongly encourage your institution to identify suitable staff members and actively support them to consider this opportunity. Investing in their postgraduate development can directly strengthen your institution's capacity for better policy analysis, more effective development interventions and informed decision-making.

Yours faithfully,



Head, Department of Social Studies
The Open University of Sri Lanka
Nawala, Nugegoda.

Dr. Thushari Gamage

Head - Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Open University of Sri Lanka

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY – 2026/2027

Academic Year 2026/2027

Programme Information at a Glance

The Master of Arts in Development Studies and Public Policy offered by the Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka, is a multidisciplinary postgraduate programme with a strong development and public-policy focus. The programme is designed particularly for graduates and working professionals seeking to strengthen their ability to understand development challenges, critically analyse economic and social issues, formulate and evaluate public policy, manage development interventions, and undertake independent research. The programme has a minimum duration of two years and combines taught courses with advanced research training and a dissertation.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should satisfy **one of the following requirements**:

Option 1:

A degree from a recognized university with **at least one year of work experience**, preferably in planning, administration or implementation of development projects;

OR

Option 2:

An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of The Open University of Sri Lanka, together with **at least one year of relevant work experience**.

Selection may also include an **interview conducted by the Department of Social Studies, as needed**.

Flexible Learning for Working Professionals

One of the major advantages of studying at The Open University of Sri Lanka is its Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. OUSL enables students to undertake their studies while continuing their employment and other responsibilities. The University specifically notes that students can study from their homes or workplaces and that many OUSL students pursue higher education while employed.

Students are supported through a combination of:

- specially developed course materials;
- online learning resources;
- the Open University Learning Management System (OULMS);
- Interactive Learning Sessions;
- academic guidance from course leaders and other academic staff; and
- access to regional and study-centre facilities.

The ODL system combines independent learning with opportunities for interaction and academic support.

Programme Fee Structure – 2026/2027

For Local Students

Fee Component	Amount
Registration Fee	Rs. 1,500.00
Facility Fee	Rs. 2,500.00
Library Facility Fee	Rs. 200.00
Tuition Fee	Rs. 2,310.00 per credit

For International Students

Fee Component	Amount
Registration Fee	USD 200
Tuition Fee – Students from Developing Countries	USD 30 per credit
Tuition Fee – Students from Developed Countries	USD 60 per credit
Refundable Deposit for Foreign Students	USD 500

The total tuition fee for the two-year MA programme is approximately Rs. 145,530, calculated at Rs. 2,310 per credit. Payment of Tuition Fees: Tuition fees may be paid in two instalments: 60% as the first instalment and 40% as the second instalment.

Fees are subject to applicable University regulations and any revisions approved by The Open University of Sri Lanka.

Key Dates – 2026/2027 Intake

Applications Open: 01 September 2026
Closing Date: 30 September 2026
Programme Duration: Minimum 2 years

Medium: English
Online Application Fee: Rs. 1,000/-
Mode of Application: Online

Further Information

Department of Social Studies
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Open University of Sri Lanka
Nawala, Nugegoda

Professor Thiwankee Wickramasinghe
MA Second Year Coordinator
Email: tawic@ou.ac.lk
Tel: 011 288 1402

Dr. Achintha Koswatta
MA First Year Coordinator
Email: hmkos@ou.ac.lk
Tel: +94 11 231 9929

Professor Mahim Mendis
Programme Chair – MA in Development Studies
and Public Policy
Email: mahimmendis@gmail.com
Mobile: 077 94 88808

For more information, please visit the Department of Social Studies, The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) website and refer to the MA in Development Studies and Public Policy Prospectus.

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1psv4AAE5k2ZDc_-BVwxuDA3hQWf85_/C/view

www.ousl.lk

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P.O. Box 21,
Nawala,
Nugegoda.

10/09/2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

An Opportunity to Pursue a National University Degree in Social Sciences in the English Medium

The Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) invites you to introduce your staff members as well as those completing Secondary education to our three-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences.

The Department is a pioneer in multidisciplinary Social Sciences education within Sri Lanka's national university system. The degree provides an integrated foundation in four important areas:

Economics | Political Science | Sociology | Mass Communication

The programme is designed for those who wish to develop a broad understanding of society, economy, politics, communication and development, while preparing for diverse academic and professional pathways.

Why Choose the BA in Social Sciences?

- **Open access:** Persons **over 18 years of age** may apply, subject to University admission requirements, regardless of age or socio-economic background.
- **Flexible learning:** Our **Open and Distance Learning system** enables students to pursue higher education while working or fulfilling other responsibilities.
- **Weekend-based academic activities:** Students can remain away from the University during weekdays, making the programme particularly suitable for employed students.
- **Flexible workload:** Students can select an appropriate credit workload each year within the University's regulations.
- **Wide career pathways:** The degree provides a strong foundation for careers and further studies in **Law, Public Administration, Diplomacy and International Relations, Development, the Private Sector, Communication and Media, Research, and national and international NGOs.**
- **Financial assistance:** Eligible students can apply for **Mahapola Scholarships and University Bursaries** after successful completion of the first year.

- **Quality and recognition:** As a national university operating within the quality assurance framework of the **University Grants Commission**, OUSL degrees provide a recognized foundation for further academic and professional opportunities in Sri Lanka and internationally.

We particularly encourage **students with a satisfactory knowledge of English** and an interest in understanding society and contributing to national and international development to consider this opportunity.

We kindly request your support in **bringing this programme to the attention of anyone interested in a national university degree, in your school community.**

For further information and assistance regarding admission, please contact:

Professor Mahim Mendis

Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Telephone: 0112881014; 077 9488808

Email: mahimmendis@gmail.com

Ms. Maduwanthi Godagampola

Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Telephone: 0112319934

Email: gdgod@ou.ac.lk

Applications for the Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences will be open from **1st September 2026 to 30th September 2026.**

Online application link: <https://apply.lmsousl.lk/>

BASS Prospects link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V5altuT343QTc80NbzwDLPIExr0heaXD/view>

We look forward to welcoming motivated members of your school community to the **BA Degree in Social Sciences at the Open University of Sri Lanka.**

Yours faithfully,



Head, Department of Social Studies
The Open University of Sri Lanka
Nawala, Nugegoda.

Dr. Thushari Gamage

Head, Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka

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நாவல்,
நுகேகோட.

P.O. Box 21,
Nawala,
Nugegoda.

10/09/2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Empower Communities, Lead Change: Pursue a National Degree in Youth & Community Development (English Medium)

The Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) invites applications for its transformative three-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in Youth and Community Development. We encourage school leaders, administrators, and organisation heads to introduce this unique higher education pathway to staff, school leavers, and professionals working with and for young people.

The degree provides a multidisciplinary foundation for developing professional Youth Work knowledge, skills, and competencies, with a strong focus on understanding young people, supporting their development, strengthening youth participation, and responding to contemporary youth issues.

Designed for those passionate about working with young people, the degree develops practical skills in Youth Work, youth advocacy, participation, communication, leadership, community engagement, and social policy, preparing graduates for meaningful careers working alongside young people and youth-focused organisations.

Key Advantages of the BA in Youth and Community Development

- **Inclusive Entry Criteria:** Anyone 18 years or older who meets basic university requirements can enroll, regardless of background or prior qualifications.
- **Adaptable Distance Education:** Designed around an Open and Distance Learning model, allowing students and active youth workers to balance rigorous study with full-time employment or community projects.
- **Weekend Learning Schedule:** Academic sessions and contact hours occur on weekends, ensuring uninterrupted weekday work and field schedules.
- **Practical Internships & Field Exposure:** Integrated internships and practical field activities ensure students build real-world competency while directly supporting youth and community projects.

- **Customizable Study Load:** Students enjoy the flexibility to tailor their annual course load based on personal capacity and professional commitments.
- **Diverse Career Pathways:** Prepares graduates for impactful roles in youth advocacy, community leadership, public administration, international development, youth-focused NGOs, CSR initiatives, and research.
- **Financial Assistance:** Top-performing first-year students are eligible to apply for Mahapola Scholarships as well as institutional financial aid.
- **UGC-Accredited Excellence:** Fully recognized under Sri Lanka's University Grants Commission guidelines, providing a trusted foundation for domestic and global advancement.

We warmly invite applicants who are passionate about supporting young people and building stronger communities to explore this opportunity. We kindly request your support in sharing this announcement across your academic and institutional networks.

Contact for Inquiries & Admissions:

Dr Shantha Abeysinghe

Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Tel: 0112881300; 076 4769519

Ms Nilupuli Nayanathara

Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Tel: 0112881083; 077 4527272

Applications for the Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Community Development will be open from 1st September 2026 to 30th September 2026.

Online application link



BYCD Prospects link



We look forward to welcoming individuals passionate about working with young people to the BA Degree in Youth and Community Development at the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Yours faithfully,

Head, Department of Social Studies
The Open University of Sri Lanka
Nawala, Nugegoda.

Dr. Thushari Gamage

Head, Department of Social Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Open University of Sri Lanka