

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Bachelor of Laws (Hons) Degree Programme- 2023

Faculty of Law

University of Colombo

Sri Lanka

Handwritten signature
12/05/2022

Cover page: a pencil sketch of the view of the Faculty of Law from the Reid Avenue entrance by Ishan Jayasundara.

The drawing of the Faculty of Law on the cover page has been sketched with graphite pencils by Ishan Jayasundara, a graduate of the Faculty of Law. The editorial team commissioned this pencil sketch to him in February 2022. Ishan is a self-taught artist passionate about sketching pencil drawings.

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

FACULTY OF LAW

Vision Statement

The Faculty will promote the full development of individual personalities inculcating in them a commitment to justice and a sense of responsibility to the wider community

Mission Statement

The Faculty of Law is committed to legal education and research which maintains standards of excellence and responds to social challenges and needs. It is committed to achieving this mission within a university community based on academic freedom, including respect for dissent and diversity and a culture of learning

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Foreword

As you enter the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, there may be many questions that you would like answered. In this handbook, we seek to answer some of the queries that are common to everybody as well as provide you with information on the nature of the LL.B. programme, course-modules offered, and methods of teaching and examinations. In addition, this handbook provides information on co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the Faculty.

This handbook must be read in conjunction with the handbook prepared by the University of Colombo titled "Information for Undergraduates" as well as the Bylaws of the Faculty that lay down, among other things, the criteria applicable to examinations. In the event that you have other questions or problems, you are strongly advised and encouraged to consult your lecturers, student counsellors, Heads of Departments or the Dean.

The bachelor's degree programme is offered without levying any fees from you. It is your duty to make use of the facilities and resources responsibly and efficiently. We are happy that you have chosen to follow the LL.B. (Hons) Degree programme at our institution when you decided to pursue higher education.

Nath Gunawardena, Kavindu Hewa Geeganage, Dinesha Samararatne & Akalanka Thilakarathna
(Editors of the Student Handbook for 2023)

Message from the Dean

I am truly delighted to contribute a short message to the student handbook published by the Faculty of Law, the premier seat of legal education in the country. It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that from this intake onwards you will have the privilege of studying under the revised LL.B. (Hons) Degree Programme which is designed to meet both the local and international standards of legal education. The revised programme will be offered in four academic years containing eight semesters. The revised curriculum includes a variety of new course modules tailor-made to equip students to perform well in the competitive modern knowledge economy. Under the revised programme, learning will transcend the traditional classroom into legal research, clinical legal education and practical components.

The Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo is the only Faculty of Law coming under the purview of the University Grants Commission of the country. It has produced and endeavours to produce legal luminaries in the field of law ranging from Diplomats, Statesmen, Practitioners, judges and academics of the highest calibre. Our hope is that you too will follow in their footsteps and serve society, standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before you. Let me assure you that you will be provided with the best form of legal education backed by able academic staff consisting of Chair Professors, Professors, Senior Academics and others.

I urge you to go through and familiarize yourself with the contents of this handbook which will help you to uphold the rules and values of the Faculty of Law and the University of Colombo. I wish you all the very best and hope you will have a productive and a memorable stay at the Faculty of Law.

Prof (Dr) Sampath Punchihewa
Dean,
Faculty of Law,
University of Colombo

Part I: Institutions and Mandates

1.1 University of Colombo

The history of the University of Colombo dates back to the establishment of the Ceylon University College in 1921. Today, it is a university established under the Universities Act of 1978. The University of Colombo is a sprawling complex located in the heart of the capital city of Colombo. In keeping with its motto “*Buddhi Sarvathra Bhrajate*,” Sanskrit for “Wisdom Enlightens”, the University of Colombo strives to maintain academic excellence in all areas of study. The University, one of the best South Asian Universities, has 10 Faculties with 77 Academic Departments, a Campus, a School, 6 Institutes and 13 Centres and Units. Many undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes are available in the fields of Arts, Science, Medicine, Management, Finance, Law, Education, IT, Aesthetic Studies, Molecular Biology etc. The University also offers several other services, such as library services, career guidance, and services for students with disabilities. Today, the University of Colombo continues in its endeavour to meet the challenge of maintaining its position as the “Capital University, modern and international in outlook and character.” The location of the University affords the student population all the advantages of a “metropolitan university”, with easy access to international information/resource centres, libraries, theatres, sports complexes etc.

1.1.1. Motto

“*Buddhi Sarvathra Bhrajate*”,

Sanskrit for “*Wisdom Enlightens*”

1.1.2. Vision

To be a centre of global excellence in education, research and stakeholder engagement to enrich human potential for the betterment of society.

1.1.3. Mission

To discover and disseminate knowledge; enhance innovation and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the university through engagement and collaboration with industry and community.

1.1.4. Office-bearers of the University

Chancellor

Venerable Muruththettuwe Ananda Nayaka Thero

Vice Chancellor

Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne

Registrar

Mr. K. A. S. Edward

Bursar (Acting)

Mrs. S. A. N. D. Abeysundara

Librarian (Acting)

Mrs S. Somaratne

1.1.5. University Policies

The University adopts policies from time to time to govern its academic, extra-curricular and administrative activities. Applicable policies include the Policy on the Use of Electronic Mail (E-mail), Policy against Sexual Harassment and Social Media Guidelines. Applicable policies can be accessed via the website of the University.

1.2 Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo is the only Faculty of Law in the traditional University system in Sri Lanka. Situated in the heart of Colombo, based within the Island's oldest University, the Faculty of Law offers a four-year programme of study, leading to the award of the Bachelor of Laws (Hons) Degree. In addition, the Faculty of Law also offers courses leading to the Degrees of Master of Laws, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy.

The Faculty consists of Chair Professors, Professors of Law, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers, Probationary Lecturers, Temporary Lecturers and Tutors. Apart from their teaching functions, the academic staff members engage in research and regularly contribute to national, regional and international academic and professional activities in the legal sphere. They also contribute to various welfare activities and functions at the University and serve the institution as Student Counsellors, Senior Treasurers of student societies and Academic Wardens and Sub-Wardens of undergraduate men's and women's hostels.

The preparation of lecture schedules, examination timetables, revision of syllabi and courses, examination criteria, etc., fall within the functions of the Faculty.

1.2.1. History

As in many other countries, the early days of legal education in Sri Lanka required a prospective lawyer to study in the chambers of a senior lawyer. The next stage in legal education was that of providing more formal-systematic instruction in legal course-modules supplemented by a period of training or apprenticeship. Formal instruction was provided by the Ceylon Law College (now called the

Sri Lanka Law College) mainly by part-time teachers who were also practitioners.

In 1924, it was suggested that law be introduced as a university discipline. However, this suggestion was not implemented. It was only once the University of Ceylon was established in 1942 that a course of study for a law degree was designed. In 1947, a Department of Law was established at the University of Peradeniya in the Faculty of Arts, and in 1950 the first set of Law Degrees were awarded. This Department was later shifted to the Colombo Campus of the University of Ceylon. A separate Faculty of Law was established in 1968.

Initially, law was only taught in English. In 1971, in accordance with government policy, the Faculty began to teach the law programme in all three languages. It is even now the only Faculty in the country to teach a course in all three languages.

The Faculty of Law has produced many eminent law graduates who have excelled in the field of law as well as in other related fields. Some of the well-known scholars who served the Faculty of Law and who were also alumni of the Faculty include Justice Soertsz Q.C., Professor T. Nadaraja, Justice H. W. Tambiah Q.C., Mr. R. K. W. Goonesekere, Mr. H. L. de Silva P.C., Mr. Ranjit Abeysooriya P.C., Justice S. Sharvananda, Professor Savitri Goonesekere, Professor G. L. Pieris, Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, Justice J. A. N. de Silva, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaiyake, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar P.C., Dr. C. F. Amerasinghe, Dr. Ranjit Amarasinghe, Justice Mark Fernando P.C., Mr. Faiz Musthapha P.C., Justice (Dr.) A.R.B. Amarasinghe, Dr. Nirmala Chandrahasan, Professor M. Sornarajah, Professor Suri Ratnapala, Justice (Dr.) Saleem Marsoof P.C., Mr. Ikram Mohamed P.C., Dr. Hiran Jayawardena, Professor L. J. M. Cooray, Professor M.

J. A. Cooray, Dr. Jayantha de Almeida Gunaratne P.C., Justice (Dr.) Shirani A. Bandaranayake, Justice K. T. Chitrasiri and Dr. Shivaji Felix.

1.2.2. Legal Education

The Department of Law, University of Ceylon, was established in 1947. The original intention was that all aspiring lawyers should first obtain a law degree and thereafter proceed to the Ceylon Law College for practical training. This was subsequently rejected. Professor T. Nadaraja (Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty from 1948 - 1983) has described the events leading up to the establishment of the Faculty of Law as follows:

“The next stage in the evolution of legal education in Ceylon was initiated in 1923 by Chief Justice Sir Anton Bertram, who pointed out grave defects in the education provided at the Ceylon Law College. He appears to have realised the limitations of the largely vocational training given by part-time teachers at the College and to have had in mind the broader objectives which university teachers are expected to follow and the wider horizons they can open up to students in the environment of a university. His suggestion, which the Council for Legal Education accepted in 1924 was that the major part of the instruction of law students be transferred to a Faculty of Law at the proposed University of Ceylon, leaving the Law College to provide a postgraduate course of instruction in what were termed practical course-modules, like Procedure, Evidence and Conveyancing. But eleven years later the Council went back on its earlier decision and decided that, whether the proposed Faculty of Law came into existence or not the Law College should continue to provide a complete course of study and training for prospective lawyers.”

[Professor T. Nadaraja, “Convocation Address”, University of Colombo, 1984]

Thus, while the Law College continued to provide access to the profession, the Faculty was able to provide students selected through the university admissions process with a broader orientation. This was consistent with the vision of Chief Justice Bertram and the broader outlook that university education must necessarily contain. There are, therefore, two streams through which one can enter the profession today. The stream which flows from the university system, prepares students differently, with an emphasis on analytical and jurisprudential perspectives. This approach has made and continues to make a unique and indispensable contribution to the Sri Lankan legal community, legal scholarship and other areas of public life.

The philosophy of legal education at the Faculty of Law, therefore, has been and is, different to that of the Sri Lanka Law College. The philosophy is consistent with trends in modern legal education throughout the world. As Professor Nadaraja has observed:

“Modern legal education, therefore, concentrates on providing the background and the method of approach rather than on merely imparting information, believing that even for the student who is going to practise it is more important to acquire the habit of mind which can get to the bottom of an unfamiliar subject than to acquire a merely factual knowledge of details... There will, of course, be many things that a young graduate just out of law school which has fulfilled its proper functions will still have to learn, and too often critics of the law schools unfairly judge him by the tests that should be applied only to the experienced practitioner. But the law schools, as we have already pointed out, have to keep first things first and remember that, in the limited period during which they have the opportunity of moulding young minds, their object should be not to produce a short-term professional competence but

to inculcate a scientific legal training which must serve as a basis for a whole lifetime in a profession calling for the most varied skills.”

Professor T. Nadaraja, ‘Objectives in Legal Education’, XVI (No 3 & 4) Jul - Oct 1956, *University of Ceylon Review*, 92-104.

1.2.3. Research and Publications

Sri Lanka Journal of International Law (SLJIL)

The Sri Lanka Journal of International Law is a refereed journal focusing on international and comparative law, published annually by the Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. 28 volumes have been published to date. Publication in this Journal is valid for purposes of academic accreditation. Information on submissions and abstracts of current and prior volumes and issues of the journal are available at <https://jil.law.cmb.ac.lk/>. Printed copies of the journal can be purchased from Department of Public and International Law and e-copies of articles are available online through HeinOnline. The Journal is listed in the periodical indexes of *Ulrich* and *Lex Opus*.

Colombo Law Review (CLR)

The Colombo Law Review is published by the Faculty of Law. The first issue was published in 1969. The Editorial Board accepts submissions by legal experts, young researchers, post-graduate and undergraduate students on any contemporary legal issue. Each article is peer-reviewed by an expert in the field prior to being accepted for publication.

Colombo Law Journal (CLJ)

The Colombo Law Journal is the flagship student journal published by the Faculty of Law and is managed by the Moot Court and Debating Society of the Faculty. This Journal offers an opportunity for undergraduates to publish their work alongside legal practitioners and academics. The Colombo Law Journal comprises essays written on new developments of international and national law. There have been three volumes of this Journal up to date. The third volume carried articles in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English) for the first time.

South Asian Environmental Law Report (SAELR)

The South Asian Environmental Law Reports (SAELR) is a joint publication by the Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) of the University of Colombo and the Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka (CEJ). Each issue of SAELR presents four landmark judgements from Sri Lanka and four significant judgements from other nations in South Asia. Each landmark case includes a review by a legal expert analysing the judgement.

South Asian Journal for Environmental Law and Policy (SA-JELP)

The South Asian Journal of Environmental Law and Policy (SA-JELP) is the first journal focusing on environmental law and policy within the South Asian region. It is the brainchild of a collaboration between the Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ). The primary objective of the SA-JELP is to act as a platform for academic collaboration and the dissemination of knowledge within

the region. The authors are encouraged to identify key issues and debate potential solutions which can eventually influence changes in policy.

Annual Research Symposium

The Faculty accords high priority to research, both among students and teachers. To encourage research among academic staff and students, the Faculty organizes its Annual Academic Symposium parallel to the Annual Research Symposium of the University of Colombo.

1.2.4. Staff

Administrative Staff

- Deputy Registrar - Ms. Suneetha Samarathunga

Academic Support Staff

- Computer Instructor – Dean's Office
Ms. P. A. D. S. N. Gamage

Assistant Network Manager

Ms. Buddhini Welikala

System Analyst Cum Programmer

Mr. MHS Dilshan

Non-Academic Staff - Dean's Office

- Senior Management Assistant

Mrs. M. K. W. H. Rajapaksha Arachchi

- Management Assistants

Mr. K. P. S. Rupasinghe
Mr. B. D. N. T. Samaraweera
Mr. W. L. R. Sampath
Ms. K. A. H. D. Perera
Ms. J. M. N. Chethani
Ms. E. A. Sandani Lakma

- Laboratory Attendants – Dean’s Office

Ms. N. S. Gamhewa
Ms. N. P. N. Perera

- Works Aides – Dean’s Office

Mr. H. H. L. P. Chandrarathna

1.3 Academic Departments

In December 2009, the Department of Law was re-structured as three separate Departments. They are: the Department of Commercial Law, the Department of Private and Comparative Law and the Department of Public and International Law. The re-structuring was designed to facilitate further development and deepening of expertise in the separate areas of law under different Departments.

1.3.1. Department of Commercial Law

The Department of Commercial Law is one of the dynamic departments created in the Faculty of Law. Having begun operations in December 2009 in the Faculty of Law, the Department of Commercial Law has expanded its scope to include many curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Currently, the Commercial Law Department offers thirteen course-modules at the undergraduate level and ten course-modules at the postgraduate level. Though the course-modules handled by the Department are relatively few in number, they incorporate a vast body of law relating to the commercial field. In today's world, there is a high demand for specialized legal expertise in each of these fields such as Banking, Corporate Governance, Arbitration, Insurance, Competition Policy, and so on.

The Department hopes to further expand its curriculum in the near future to cater to the needs of society. The Department consists of a highly qualified teaching faculty, whose expertise is very much in line with the demands of today's academic world and the industry.

The following course-modules are offered by the Department at the Undergraduate level

- Principles of Commercial Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Company Law
- International Investment Law
- Competition Law
- Commercial Arbitration
- Business Law
- ICT Law
- Insurance Law

- Artificial Intelligence and Law
- International Trade Law
- Law and Economics
- Law of Taxation

The following course-modules are offered by the Department of Commercial Law at the postgraduate level (for Master of Laws):

- Banking Law
- Company Law
- Fundamentals of Commercial Law
- Information Technology Law
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Trade Law
- International Investment Law
- Law of Taxation
- Information Technology Law

a. Message from Head of Department

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Department of Commercial Law, I have great pleasure in issuing this message to the Student Handbook 2023 of the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. It is with pride that I welcome you warmly to the Faculty of Law and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your success in the very competitive G.C.E. (A/L) examination and for gaining admission to the prestigious Faculty of Law.

The Department of Commercial Law wishes you a happy, fruitful and successful learning experience while reading for the LL.B. Degree.

The objective of university education is to produce graduates who are academically strong and who have passion, commitment and leadership skills in order to meet the legal, political and social challenges of the changing world. In legal education at university level, you may identify laws, their changes, development and scope along with the importance of the application in changing societies. In order to achieve this, you are expected to work hard right through the four years of your study programme.

The Department strongly believes that its duty is to assist you to sharpen your insight into the various branches of commercial law and expand your skills as a professional who will fit well into the corporate world. This will enable you not only to find a broad spectrum of opportunities and exciting career prospects in the commercially oriented industry but also to cope with any injustice or malpractice in the same field with positive involvements to mitigate them.

As law students, you must be aware that rights do not exist on their own but correspond to obligations. Therefore, our hope is that at the end of your four-year stay, you will be excellent graduates with a compelling desire for academic and professional excellence coupled with your social responsibilities. Also, you must not forget that you are the future of this country and the hope of your parents.

In addition to the curriculum, there are ample opportunities available at the university to develop your extracurricular interests. Students are encouraged to make good use of these opportunities to improve their talents and skills in sports, aesthetic activities, oratorical talents etc. during the coming years. There are several annual events organized by the Department in cooperation with industries and

students where you will have opportunities to develop your knowledge and skills.

Once again, I wish you the best of luck and continued success throughout your university life and the most fruitful, interesting, stimulating and productive university life. I hope you will complete your studies successfully and contribute to the upliftment of the standards of law and justice in the country.

Mr. Menaka Harankaha
Head,
Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law.

b. Academic staff of the Department

Professor (Chair) (Dr.) (Mrs.) N. Kamardeen
Professor

Professor (Mrs.) W. I. Nanayakkara
Professor

Professor N. S. Punchihewa
Professor

Dr. S. W. P. Mahanamahewa
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Mr. H. A. Menaka
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Dr. (Mrs.) D. L. F. Shamila
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Dr. (Ms.) R. P. D. Pathirana
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Dr. (Ms.) I. D. L. Pathirana
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Mrs. P. S. P. G. Vithanage
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. D. Suthakar
Lecturer (Probationary)

Ms. Y. Kumaraguru
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. T. K. L. Hewa Geeganage
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. W. R. Samaranayake
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. U. P. A. T. Shashindri
Lecturer (Probationary)

c. Non-academic staff of the Department

Mr. P. J. M. de Silva
Senior Staff Management

Mr. W. A. C. Pushpakumara
Works Aide

d. Extension Courses

1) *Diploma in Commercial Law*

This is a six-month diploma course introduced by the Department of Commercial Law aiming to provide an understanding of concepts, principles and theories in relation to business contracts, company law, partnership law, information technology law and employment law. This course is designed to attract school leavers, employees in industries and others who are interested in obtaining knowledge related to commercial and business law.

2) *Certificate in Business Law*

The Department of Commercial Law offers this short course of three months duration to cater to private and public sector employees who need basic knowledge in Business Law.

3) *Certificate in Intellectual Property Law*

This short course is offered by the Department of Commercial Law with the aim of giving students basic knowledge of intellectual property law. The duration of the course is three months.

4) *Certificate Course in Patent Law*

This certificate course was introduced to provide participants with theoretical and practical knowledge related to Patent Law and Patent drafting. The distinctive element of this course is that lectures are conducted by an international faculty and the participants are given

the opportunity to acquire international knowledge related to Patent law.

1.3.2. Department of Private and Comparative Law

The mission of the Department of Private and Comparative Law is (1) to provide its students with a diverse, intellectually rigorous learning environment in which to acquire knowledge of the law in its broadest sense so that they may acquire the skills to become excellent lawyers and professionals; (2) to promote knowledge, understanding and the value of comparative law; (3) to create an academic staff, committed to excellence, honesty, openness, diversity and collegiality; and (4) to support and advance through our teaching, scholarship, an institutional commitment to justice.

The Department of Private and Comparative Law seeks to be distinctive with a strong international and regional comparative focus in Private Law and aspires to provide an environment that advances scholarly discussion and debate. The Department encourages its staff to aspire to high standards of teaching and research. It supports programmes, initiatives and innovations that will serve to further enhance the Department's performance as teachers.

Established in December 2009, the Department of Private and Comparative Law offers sixteen course-modules at the undergraduate level and six course-modules at the postgraduate level.

Highly qualified academic staff of the Department have the necessary expertise to teach these course-modules to the undergraduates.

Course-modules offered by the Department

The following course-modules are offered by the Department of Private and Comparative Law currently at the undergraduate level:

Legal Method and Legal Writing

- Legal Method and Legal Writing
- Legal Systems
- Roman Law
- Family Law I
- Equity and Law of Trusts
- Family Law II
- Law of Property
- Interpretation of Statutes and Documents
- Law of Delict
- Private International Law
- Ethics of the Legal Profession
- Law and Medicine
- Labour Law
- Jurisprudence
- Civil Procedure
- Construction Law

The following course-modules are offered by the Department of Private and Comparative Law at the postgraduate level (for Master of Laws);

- Labour Law
- Gender Justice and Women's Rights Law
- Law of Delict

- Fundamentals of Private Law
- Comparative Contract Law
- Legal theory and legal writing

a. Message from Head of Department

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Department of Private and Comparative of the Faculty of Law. Your decision to come to the Law Faculty is an important step in furthering your academic career. As a member of the student community of the Law Faculty, you join many other talented students from all over the country, and across the nation. I am sure that your academic experience will be augmented by learning with students of other cultures and backgrounds.

The Department of Private and Comparative Law, which handles the largest number of course-modules taught in the LL. B. programme, is looking forward to providing you with a diverse, intellectually rigorous learning environment in which to acquire knowledge of the law in its broadest sense, in order for you to become an excellent professional. Your academic program is conducted by professors, senior lecturers and young and energetic lecturers of the Department. I assure you that you will be provided a very friendly and insightful learning environment here. Together with the Dean of the Faculty, the lecturers and the non-academic staff of the Department are continually working to improve the quality of your academic life throughout the stay.

We also work with individual students to solve problems of an academic and personal nature. We care deeply about our students and are here to offer our support. Our door is always open to hear

your concerns and suggestions on ways to strengthen and build your learning capacity.

This student handbook provides you with valuable information to assist you navigate your journey through the Law Faculty. Make use of it, become familiar with your responsibilities as a Law student. Finally, I hope that you will make the time to take advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities given by the Department and the Faculty to get involved. In that way, you will make the most of your life here at the Law Faculty.

I wish you all the best!

Dr. Udapadie Liyanage
Head,
Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law.

b. Academic staff of the Department

Professor (Mr.) A. Sarveswaran
Professor

Professor (Chair) (Dr.) (Mrs.) N. R. Wijeyesekera
Professor

Ms. M. D. M. Abeyratne
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Dr. (Mrs.) D. S. E. U. S. Liyanage
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Dr. W. A. D. J. Sumanadasa
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Mrs. M. P. S. K. Pathirana
Senior Lecturer (Transitional)

Mrs. T. Kumarasoorier
Senior Lecturer (Transitional)

Ms. G. I. D. I. Udani
Senior Lecturer (Transitional)

Mrs. E. M. Y. G. Ekanayaka
Senior Lecturer (Transitional)

Ms. B. M. Munasinghe
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. A. H. M. D. L. Abeyrathna
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. A. J. M. K. K. Aviruppola
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. J. Jeyakala
Lecturer (Probationary)

Ms. E. T. C. Nanayakkara
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. G. P. D. Madhushan
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. H. M. S. H. Abeyrathne
Lecturer (Probationary)

Ms. S. Janani
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. S. A. Wijesinha
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. C. S. C. Antony
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. G. D. Gunawardena
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. V. K. Ahamed
Lecturer (Probationary)

c. Visiting academic staff of the Department

Mr S. Anushankan

Mr S. Selvakkunapalan

d. Non-academic staff of the Department

Ms. R. M. Sandareka
Management Assistant

Mr. T. V. Wijerathna
Works Aide

e. Extension courses

1. *Advanced Certificate in Human Resource Management Law (ACHRML)*

The Advanced Certificate in Human Resource Management Law (ACHRML) Programme has been designed to provide knowledge in concepts, theories and legal principles of Human Resource Management Law. The programme is mainly designed to enhance participants' skills to solve complex problems in the area of Human Resource Management, and to stimulate their attitudes towards the promotion of justice and industrial peace. This course is conducted only in English.

2. *Diploma in Private Law*

This course aims to provide a general overview of selected aspects of Private Law by way of blending the theory and practice with the objective of disseminating knowledge to the target audience in the manner that enable them to make informed decisions.

1.3.3. Department of Public and International Law

The Department of Public and International Law has offered academic instruction in aspects of law that are fundamental a) to the relationship of individuals and communities with the state and b) the international level since December 2009. Currently, the Department is in charge of offering seventeen course-modules at the undergraduate level and six course-modules at the postgraduate level. The Department further offers four courses (03 advanced certificate courses, 01 diploma) which are open to the public at large. These courses are designed to improve legal literacy, contribute to the strengthening of citizenship and in general to promote access to justice. In an increasingly globalized and complex world the course-modules offered by the Department continue to grow in their significance.

Course-modules offered by the Department

The following course-modules are offered by the Department of Public and International Law:

- Constitutional Law I
- Criminal Law I
- Criminal Law II
- Constitutional Law II
- Public International Law
- Administrative Law
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Human Rights Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- Law of Evidence
- Law and Literature
- Law of the Sea

- Air and Space Law
- Criminal Procedure
- International Institutions
- Media Law
- International Criminal Law

The following course-modules are offered by the Department of Public and International Law at the postgraduate level (for Master of Laws):

- Administrative Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Justice
- Environment Law
- Human Rights Law
- International Humanitarian Law

a. Message from Head of Department

Dear Students,

It is with great pleasure that I pen this message to warmly welcome you to the Faculty of Law and to your much awaited new life as a university student at the University of Colombo. During the four-year LL.B. Degree Programme at the Faculty of Law, you will have the opportunity to study in an intellectually challenging environment and to learn how to realise your greatest potential under the guidance and supervision of a dedicated and well experienced team of academic staff.

The Department of Public and International Law offers seventeen course-modules related to the areas of Public law and International law. The teachers attached to the Department are prepared to provide you the best educational experience to fulfil your expectations, to help you to achieve your academic and professional goals in making you eminent legal personalities. We wish to give our fullest cooperation and support to train and encourage you to upgrade your knowledge and develop skills that will make you leaders in a changing society. I take this opportunity to request you to use the opportunities offered by the Department, Faculty and the University to achieve your future goals in the field of law.

We also look forward to the contribution you would make in achieving the common goals of enriching the legal knowledge and to the society.

Professor Wasantha Seneviratne
Head,
Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of law.

b. Academic staff of the Department

Professor (Chair) (Mrs.) Wasantha Seneviratne
Professor

Professor (Mrs.) M. A. D. S. Jeeva Shirajanie Niriella
Professor

Professor (Dr.) Kokila Konasinghe
Professor

Prof (Dr.) (Mrs.) W. V. A. Dinesha Samararatne
Professor

Mr. M. A. M. Hakeem
Senior Lecturer Gr. I

Ms. D. S. Medawatte
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Dr. (Mrs.) U. A. T. Udayanganie
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Dr. (Ms.) N. M. Mendis
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Dr. V. Chandrasekaram
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Mrs. C. L. Akurugoda
Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Mr. G. I. M. Liyanage
Senior Lecturer (Transitional)

Mr.K. A. A. N.Thilakarathna
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)

Mrs. T. R. Galappaththige
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. S. Puwanitha
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. M. A. A. K. K. Amarasinghe
Lecturer (Probationary)

Ms. S. B. I. Perera
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. R. Pavithra
Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. Susarithaa Segar
Lecturer (Probationary)

c. Visiting academic staff of the Department

Mr. P. L. de Alwis, PC
Visiting Lecturer

d. Non-academic staff of the Department

Ms. S. A. M. D. Perera
Management Assistant

Mr. L. N. Gurusinghe
Works Aide

e. Extension courses

1) Advanced Certificate in International Criminal Law (ACICL)

This six month Advanced Certificate Course aims at providing an understanding of the fundamentals of International Criminal Law, which covers the history and the development of international

criminal law and ventures into its current relevance from a global and domestic perspective. This course is conducted in the English medium.

2) *Advanced Certificate in Fundamentals of Criminal Law (ACFCL)*

This six months Advanced Certificate Course aims at providing understanding of the elementary principles of Criminal Law as applied in Sri Lanka. The course is offered in three languages; Sinhala, Tamil and English.

3) *Advanced Certificate in Environmental Law (ACEL)*

This six months Advanced Certificate Course aims at providing an understanding of the principles of Environmental Law, which covers the elementary principles of environmental protection related issues, policies, and substantive and procedural aspects from an Environmental Law perspective. The course is offered in three languages; Sinhala, Tamil and English.

4) *Diploma in Public Law - Dip (Public Law)*

This one-year Diploma Course aims at providing knowledge on substantive and procedural aspects of selected public law course-modules and improving skills and attitudes with comparative insights brought from regional and international spheres to educate the public officials, public representatives, other employers and employees, lawyers and the citizens of the country. It is an interactive citizenship education programme, which provides theoretical as well as practical knowledge in 08 course modules; ‘Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Human Rights Law, International Law, Environmental Law, International Humanitarian Law and Law of the Sea.’ The course is offered in three languages; Sinhala, Tamil and English.

1.4 Centres

The Faculty of Law, Colombo houses two centres which are dedicated to the causes of environmental conservation and restoration and the study of human rights. The Centres engage in concerted and concentrated effort to bring about student engagement and positive changes within their respective areas.

1.4.1. Centre for Environmental Law and Policy

The Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) of the Faculty of Law, was established in 2020 and is considered the pioneer institution promoting environmental conservation and restoration efforts within the University education system in Sri Lanka. CELP intends to create a platform to research, collaborate, learn and engage in environmental law and policy, thereby contributing to building an environmentally conscious society. In an era where the environment is under threat due to developmental activities, CELP aims to build individuals who can be pioneers in carrying out environmental conservation and restoration efforts, who are capable of guiding not only the people but also policy-makers in protecting the environment and who are capable of influencing other educational institutions to conserve and protect our environment.

CELP has successfully completed several landmark accomplishments in providing policy recommendations, publishing books and articles, and collaborating with international and national bodies on environment-related rights/protection. CELP publications include two compilations of statutory provisions and case law on animal welfare and public nuisance, South Asian Environmental Law Report (SAELR), and South Asian Journal of Environmental Law and Policy (SAJELP). All these publications have been prepared for the benefit of students,

academics, researchers and the general public who are urged to gain knowledge on environmental law and policy.

Recognising its public responsibility, CELP is also in the process of developing educational and training programmes for postgraduate law students, civil society, and organising webinar discussions with prominent environmentalists and experts on environmental law and policy. Ultimately, CELP aims to promote environmental law and policy in all possible ways within the Sri Lankan academic and administrative sectors and thereby, hopes to become one of the leading legal and policy making institutions in endorsing the conservation and preservation of the environment in the country.

Contact information:

Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP)

Faculty of Law

University of Colombo

Phone: +94 11 2500879 or +94 11 2503017

Email - celp@law.cmb.ac.lk

Website - <https://celp.cmb.ac.lk/>

1.4.2. Centre for the Study of Human Rights

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) was established in 1991 as an organisation within the Faculty of Law, with the main objective of making the public aware of their rights and remedies for the violation of human rights. CSHR has reached out to many groups such as secondary school students, the university community, medical and legal professionals, rural and plantation communities, armed forces, police and prison officers, civil society, quazis, media personnel, prison inmates and the general public. CSHR protects Human Rights through five main focus areas, which are: Education,

Research, Capacity Building, Knowledge Services and Institutional Development.

The Centre offers the following courses:

- *Certificate Courses*
- *Advanced Certificate Courses*
- *Six Month Distance Learning Advanced Certificate in Human Rights Approach to Prison Administration (for Prison Officers)*
- *Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy*
- *Diploma in Human Rights based Policing (Tailor made course for officials of the Department of Police)*
- *E Diploma in Human Rights (Online course)*
- *Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Rights*
- *Asia Pacific Regional Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation conducted in collaboration with Mahidol University (Thailand) and other regional universities*
- *Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (Local)*

CSHR also facilitates local and foreign internships and study sessions for international students in order to assist them to broaden their knowledge and experience of human rights and related issues in Sri Lanka. The research carried out is practically applicable in relation to rights. Research has been carried by the Centre for other organisations, while also conducting research in collaboration with local and international institutions.

Capacity Building has focused on strengthening the capacity of those in the public sector, including the armed forces, police and prison

officers as well as the non-governmental sector, with the aim of protecting and promoting their rights as well as the rights of persons with whom these groups interact.

CSHR provides Knowledge Services for students, academics, researchers and the general public by providing access to a wide range of human rights and related materials, available through its Documentation and Resource Centre, located within its premises. The final focus area is Institutional Development, which aims to provide opportunities for CSHR Staff to improve their knowledge, skills and capacities towards disseminating programmes to CSHR partners effectively and efficiently.

Contact information:

Centre for the Study of Human Rights - CSHR

Faculty of Law

University of Colombo

Phone: +94 11 2500879 or +94 11 2503017

Fax: +94 11 2598462

Email: cshr@cmb.ac.lk

Website: cshr.cmb.ac.lk

1.5 Units

The Faculty of Law, Colombo is proud to house six units which effectively facilitate activities in a variety of areas that are of importance to law undergraduates.

1.5.1 Examination Unit

This Unit is responsible for the administration of continuous assessments and semester-end examinations at the Faculty.

Contact details

Co-ordinator, Examinations:

Dr. Darshika Pathirana, Dept of Commercial Law

Email: exam@law.cmb.ac.lk

Departmental Co-ordinators:

Ms. Pramoda Vithanage, Dept of Commercial Law

Ms. Yashodha Ekanayake, Dept of Private and Comparative Law

Mr. Isuru Liyanage, Dept of Public & International Law

Non-academic staff

Mrs. Wajira Rajapaksha (Senior Staff Management Assistant)

Email: exam@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.2 English Language Unit

The Legal English Unit (LEU) of the Faculty of Law was recently established to design a bilingual teaching programme for undergraduates pursuing their Bachelor of Laws Degree in the Sinhala and Tamil media. The main objective of this Unit is to ensure that the Faculty graduates are capable of conducting their professional affairs in the English language. To achieve the objective of the Unit, the Faculty has established an in-house Unit resourced by the staff members attached to the Faculty of Law to develop a strategy and deliver the activities identified in the strategy. As a short-term measure, the Unit introduces English language components in teaching and assessment in core and elective undergraduate courses offered in Sinhala and Tamil media to prepare students for the post-2025 Law College Examinations. In addition, the Unit plans to set up an academic support programme and mentoring programme for

undergraduates requiring extra support with English language requirements.

Contact:

Director, English Language Unit: Dr. Shamila Dawood

Email: leu@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.3 Legal Aid Unit

The Legal Aid Unit is a pro-bono service programme that involves a three-way partnership between Attorneys-at-Law, the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, and vulnerable citizens and community organisations. The services provided consist of consultation clinics and an in-house aid programme. Consultation clinics enable low-income earners to meet with Attorneys and receive advice.

The in-house aid programme provides selected clients with an Attorney through whom they can, if necessary, file and pursue a case. In both instances, the Attorneys-at-Law are assisted by students of the Faculty of Law. The services are supplemented by the dissemination of information through divisional awareness campaigns, press conferences and the programme website.

The programme has as its objective, the provision of essential legal services to those who are otherwise barred from accessing justice, mainly due to the inability to afford the high costs inherent in the system and also due to different circumstances that have put them in vulnerable positions in society. This process furthers the due recognition of the rights of such persons under the Constitution.

Contact:

Senior Faculty Advisor: Dr. Visakesea Chandrasekeram

Email: lau@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.4 Career Guidance Unit

The Career Guidance Unit has been established at the Faculty of Law in 2021 to provide undergraduates career counselling, career information services, opportunities for professional networking, internships and for integration of career guidance into the co-curricular activities at the Faculty.

The Unit functions under the Dean of the Faculty and partners with the Career Guidance Unit of the University. The Unit collaborates with all relevant stakeholders in the legal sector in seeking to serve the undergraduates at the Faculty. The Unit comprises a Director, Deputy Director and a Computer Applications Assistant. Volunteers are recruited from among the undergraduates of the Faculty on an ad hoc basis. Please refer to the Career Guidance Unit page on the LMS for updated information on the activities of the Unit.

Contact:

Director, Career Guidance Unit: Dr. Dinesha Samararatne

Deputy Director, Career Guidance Unit: Mr Kavindu Hewa Geeganage

Email: director.cgu@law.cmb.ac.lk; dd.cgu@law.cmb.ac.lk

General: cgu@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.5 Legal Research Unit

The Legal Research Unit (LRU) was established in 2016, with the partnership of the Ministry of Justice, to facilitate legal research, including research with a multidisciplinary focus.

Currently, the Unit serves as a vehicle to lead the Faculty's research mandate and produce path breaking legal scholarship on cutting edge legal issues. Its vision is to advance the research mission of the Faculty by producing pathbreaking legal scholarship celebrating

academic freedom and research integrity. The Unit's mission is to contribute to the success of the Faculty by facilitating legal research, including research with an interdisciplinary focus and, thereby, contributing to the development of law and justice. As an integral aspect of the Unit's mandate, it facilitates research collaborations at different levels; university, national and international. The undergraduates and post-graduate students of the Faculty are welcome to join the research initiatives facilitated by the Unit. In addition, undergraduate law students are most welcome to work with the Unit as research and project assistants designated through a competitive selection process. When such opportunities are available, the Unit will make public announcements in various media.

Contact:

Director, Legal Research Unit: Dr. Dilini Pathirana

Email: lrucmb@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.6 Post-Graduate Unit

The Law Faculty offers the following Postgraduate Courses:

Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD.)

The LL.M. programme is carried out by course work and a dissertation, while the latter two postgraduate courses are carried out entirely through research. It is advised to refer to the By-laws for the admission and eligibility criteria for these degrees.

Contact:

Postgraduate Unit

Faculty of Law
University of Colombo.
Telephone: 112502750
Email: pgu@law.cmb.ac.lk
lawfacllm@law.cmb.ac.lk

Co-ordinator, LLM Programme: Mr. Isuru Liyanage
Email: lawfacllm@law.cmb.ac.lk

Co-ordinator, MPhil/PhD Programme: Professor (Dr.) Kokila
Konasinghe
Email: coordinatorphilphd@law.cmb.ac.lk

1.5.7 Internal Quality Assurance Unit

The Unit is responsible for monitoring quality performance, through assessment and evaluation of the activities of the Faculty in all academic programmes, centres and units on a regular basis, in order to promote productivity and development. It seeks to establish and safeguard high standards and good practices in teaching, learning and assessment. Further, the Unit facilitates the development of research skills of the academics by providing a platform to discuss their research.

Contact:
Coordinator, Quality Assurance Unit: Dr U.A.T. Udayanganie

Part II: Academics

2.1 LL.B. (Hons) Degree Programme

The Bachelor of Laws Honours (LL.B. (Hons)) Degree programme is a four-year academic programme. Under the programme, a student reads for forty-five (45) law and law-related course-modules, translating to 123 credits, within a span of eight academic semesters. The four academic years of the LL.B. Degree programme are called the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree Year I, Year II, Year III, and Year IV respectively. The eight academic semesters of the LL.B. Degree programme are called the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree Semester I, Semester II, Semester III, Semester IV, Semester V, Semester VI, Semester VII, and Semester VIII respectively. Subjects are offered jointly or by the three Departments. The following subjects are offered jointly.

- Law and Society
- ICT and Soft Skills for Law
- English for Law I
- Law of Contract
- English for Law II
- Oral Advocacy
- Aesthetic Appreciation of Law
- Professional Skills
- Internship
- Law Clinics
- Research Methodology
- Energy Law

- Legal Theory
- Student-Led Legal Seminars
- Dissertation

This is the first academic year in which the revised curriculum introduced under the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree By-Laws will be implemented. This revised degree programme consists of the following major amendments:

1. Converting from the term-based system consisting of four academic years to the semester-based system consisting of eight academic semesters.
2. Adopting the credit system for course modules and the Grade Point Average (GPA) system of evaluation (refer Section 2.12 for details).
3. Reorganising the order in which certain course modules are offered and introducing several new course modules (refer Table 1.0 for details)
4. Reducing the total number of lecture hours for certain course modules in order to provide undergraduates with more time to engage in independent research and study.
5. Revising strategies of teaching, learning, and assessment in order to reflect recent advancements in legal education, education science, technology, and society.

2.2. Course-modules

The following law-related course-modules are available in the LL.B. programme.

Note: It is compulsory for undergraduates to take course modules labelled ‘Core-NGPA’. However, the grade obtained for such course modules will have no bearing on his/her Grade Point Average (GPA).

Table 1.0. Key:

Abbreviation	Definition
CL	Department of Commercial Law
PCL	Department of Private and Comparative Law
PIL	Department of Public and International Law
JO	Jointly Offered
UC	Unchanged (Subject Title)
NS	New Subject
RN	Renamed
RP	Repositioned

Year I

All course-modules are compulsory.

Semester	Course Code	Title of the Course	Course Status	Department	Credits	Status
1	LAW11301	Law and Society	Core	JO	3	NS
	LAW11302	Legal Method and Legal Writing	Core	PCL	3	RN
	LAW11303	Legal Systems	Core	PCL	3	UC
	LAW11404	Constitutional Law I	Core	PIL	4	UC
	LAW11105	ICT and Soft Skills for Law	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	LAW11106	English for Law I	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester		15			
2	LAW12301	Criminal Law I	Core	PIL	3	RN
	LAW12202	Roman Law	Core	PCL	2	UC
	LAW12303	Family Law I	Core	PCL	3	RN/RP
	LAW12404	Law of Contract	Core	JO	4	RP
	LAW12305	Equity and Law of Trusts	Core	PCL	3	RP
	LAW12106	English for Law II	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester		16			

Year II

All course-modules are compulsory.

Semester	Course Code	Title of the Course	Course Status	Department	Credits	Status
3	LAW21301	Criminal Law II	Core	PIL	3	RN/RP
	LAW21302	Family Law II	Core	PCL	3	RN
	LAW21403	Law of Property	Core	PCL	4	RN
	LAW21304	Constitutional Law II	Core	PIL	3	UC
	LAW21105	Oral Advocacy	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester			14		
4	LAW22301	Public International Law	Core	PIL	3	RP
	LAW22302	Principles of Commercial Law	Core	CL	3	NS
	LAW22403	Administrative Law	Core	PIL	4	RP
	LAW22304	Environmental Law and Policy	Core	PIL	3	RN/RP
	LAW22305	Interpretation of Statutes and Documents	Core	PCL	3	RP
	LAW22106	Aesthetic Appreciation of Law	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester			17		

Year III

During the third year, undergraduates must study **all core course-modules** and **take one elective subject in each Semester**. An undergraduate must offer a total of six (6) law and law-related course-modules in Semester V and Semester VI.

Semester	Course Code	Title of the Course	Course Status	Department	Credits	Status
5	LAW31301	Intellectual Property Law	Core	CL	3	RP
	LAW31302	Human Rights Law	Core	PIL	3	RP
	LAW31303	Company Law	Core	CL	3	RP
	LAW31304	Law of Delict	Core	PCL	3	UC
	LAW31105	Professional Skills	Core-NGPA	JO	1 (NGPA)	NS
	ONE ELECTIVE					
	LAW31206	Private International Law	Elective	PCL	2	RN
	LAW31207	International Humanitarian Law	Elective	PIL	2	UC
	LAW31208	International Investment Law	Elective	CL	2	UC
	LAW31209	Competition Law	Elective	CL	2	NS
	LAW31210	Commercial Arbitration	Elective	CL	2	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester				15	
6	LAW32301	Business Law	Core	CL	3	UC
	LAW32502	Internship	Core	JO	5	NS
	LAW32203	Law Clinics	Core	JO	2	NS
	LAW32304	ICT Law	Core	CL	3	NS
	LAW32105	Ethics of the Legal Profession	Core-NGPA	PCL	1 (NGPA)	NS
	ONE ELECTIVE					
	LAW32206	Law of Evidence	Elective	PIL	2	RN
	LAW32207	Law and Medicine	Elective	PCL	2	RP
	LAW32208	Law and Literature	Elective	PIL	2	NS
	LAW32209	Insurance Law	Elective	CL	2	NS
	LAW32210	Law of the Sea	Elective	PIL	2	UC
	LAW32211	Artificial Intelligence and Law	Elective	CL	2	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester				16	

Year IV

During the fourth year, undergraduates must study **all core course-modules** and take **two (02) elective course-modules** in each **Semester**. An undergraduate must offer a total of five (5) law and law-related course-modules each in Semester VII and Semester VIII.



Semester	Course Code	Title of the Course	Course Status	Department	Credits	Status
7	LAW41301	Labour Law	Core	PCL	3	UC
	LAW41302	Jurisprudence	Core	PCL	3	UC
	LAW41403	Research Methodology	Core	JO	4	NS
	TWO ELECTIVES					
	LAW41204	Air and Space Law	Elective	PIL	2	NS
	LAW41205	International Trade Law	Elective	CL	2	NS
	LAW41206	Energy Law	Elective	JO	2	NS
	LAW41207	Criminal Procedure	Elective	PIL	2	RN/RP
	LAW41208	Civil Procedure	Elective	PCL	2	NS
	LAW41209	International Institutions	Elective	PIL	2	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester				14	
8	LAW42301	Legal Theory	Core	JO	3	RN
	LAW42302	Student-Led Legal Seminars	Core	JO	3	NS
	LAW42603	Dissertation	Core	JO	6	NS
	TWO ELECTIVES					
	LAW42204	Construction Law	Elective	PCL	2	NS
	LAW42205	Law and Economics	Elective	CL	2	NS
	LAW42206	Media Law	Elective	PIL	2	NS
	LAW42207	Law of Taxation	Elective	CL	2	RN
	LAW42208	International Criminal Law	Elective	PIL	2	NS
	Total Credits Per Semester				16	

Note:

The Faculty may not offer all the elective course-modules listed in a given year. Undergraduates are advised to consult the relevant Heads of Departments about the elective course-modules offered in a given year. Undergraduates who find it difficult to choose an elective from the course-modules offered in a given year are strongly advised to consult the relevant lecturers in making a final selection.

Selecting elective course-modules

Undergraduates in the Third and Fourth years of study must register their selection of the electives they wish to offer with the Dean's office within the first two weeks of the new academic year by filling the relevant form available at the Dean's office.

Both Third-and Fourth-year students can, subject to the approval of the Faculty Board, take one additional Elective Course Module in each semester in addition to the stipulated minimum number of Core and Elective Course Modules in the third and fourth years. This too must be registered. The performance at these additional Course Modules will not be taken into consideration in the computation of the final Grade Point Average (GPA).

2.3 Duration of the LL.B. Programme

The minimum period for which an undergraduate should be a registered undergraduate student is four (04) academic years consisting of eight (08) semesters. Undergraduates admitted to the

LL.B. programme are required to complete the course before the end of eight (08) academic years from the date of their first registration. The academic year of the Faculty of Law is divided into two semesters. Each semester, under normal circumstances, will be a continuous period of twenty-six (26) weeks including lectures, study leave, the examination period, and the vacation.

2.4 Law Library

The Library of the University of Colombo consists of a Main Library, which is central to the operations of faculty libraries and campus library. The Main Library is on Reid Avenue between Arts Faculty and Law Faculty Buildings. The Medical Library is situated at Kynsey Road, the Science Library is functioning at Thurstan Road, Nursing Library is in Sri Jayawardenapura, and Technology Library is located in Homagama. The library collection comprises books, periodicals and e-resources in a variety of course-modules such as Law, Humanities, Education, Management, and Social Sciences.

The law library collection occupies the whole of the second floor of the Main Library. It is one of the major Law collections in Sri Lanka and serves the research and teaching needs of the faculty and students. Textbooks, law journals, law reports, Sri Lankan legislation, law dictionaries and Encyclopaedias constitute the law collection. All the law library collections are treated as reference materials, hence only the law students are allowed to borrow textbooks for overnight and weekend reading. Nijoff collection of legal resources is a special

addition of Dutch legislative writings dating from 1750 that were acquired by Sir Ivor Jennings for the Law Faculty in 1946.

By browsing and searching on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) of the library, students can identify, select, and retrieve the books of their choice. It helps students identify if a book is available in the library or checked out. Activation of Single Sign-On (SSO) credentials will enable students to have access to a number of databases subscribed by the library. HeinOnline, LexisNexis, Oxford Law Journals, LawLanka, JSTOR are some of the subject-related e-resources.

The Library is usually open to readers from 8.00 am to 7.00 pm during weekdays and from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm on weekends (Saturdays only). At present, the library is open from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm. Library is closed during public holidays and the holidays declared by the University and/or the Government of Sri Lanka. However, the library is usually kept open on all public holidays that fall on weekends (Saturdays). All students from First, Second, Third and Final years may borrow two (02) Reference Books either from law collection (2nd floor of the library) or from general reference collection (3rd floor). Every student is entitled to borrow three (03) books from the lending collection (5th floor). This means that each student may borrow two reference books and three lending materials at a given time. The loan period for a Reference Book is one day, and one-week period for a Lending Book. Failure to return the books on or before the due date will levy fines as follows: Rs. 15/- for reference books; Rs. 10/- for non-reference books. Library facilities should be accessed using the student's university identity card, which is non-transferable.

In addition to library resources, there are training sessions offered under different “Information Literacy” topics: “Searching Techniques,” “Access to Information,” “Literature Review,” “Writing and Publishing Research Articles,” “Avoiding Plagiarism,” “Reference Styles,” and “Reference Management.” Students are able to obtain the online services through the Help-Line via the library website. Other services given by the library include: Plagiarism detection software, inter-library loan services, Smart Classroom facility, Resource Centre for Visually-Impaired students, Learning Commons (ground floor), photocopy services, Library LMS services, WiFi service, and conference hall facility.

General rules on using the Library

- Readers must scan their University Identity Card when entering the library, to mark their attendance and produce the same when borrowing books or any other time when called upon to do so.
- Readers must produce their belongings such as books, notes, etc. to the gatekeepers when they enter the library and go out of the library.
- No bags, cases, parcels, personal copies of books (if you need to bring books, please get permission from the Librarian) & printed materials, umbrellas, etc. should be brought into the library.
- SILENCE should be observed in all public reading areas. When discussing or studying in groups students shall keep their voice as lower as not disturbing others.
- Seats in the Library shall not be reserved or removed by the readers.

- Readers are not allowed to do joint work and discussions in the library **except in the Learning Commons**. Learning Commons should be used according to Health Guidelines.
- Consumption of food and drink, smoking and the use of matches or an open flame are forbidden in the library.
- No reader shall enter any part of the Library to which entry is forbidden.
- Any disorderly or improper conduct or breach of regulations will render the reader or borrower concerned liable to suspension from using the library.
- Students should not occupy the reserved places and seats for Postgraduate students/ Research students / University Teachers.
- Students with moving disabilities may use the ground floor entrance to enter the library.

For further information, please contact

Mrs. P.K.S. Manatunga, Senior Assistant Librarian

Email: sallaw@lib.cmb.ac.lk

2.5 Teaching Framework

Instruction in each subject takes place in the form of lectures, seminars, workshops, discussions, tutorial sessions, flipped-classroom sessions, group activities, projects, assignments, internships, legal clinics, moot courts, dissertations, research, presenting papers, self-study exercises and/or other forms approved by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law, which is the authority that decides the methods of teaching.

Lectures will be conducted in the form of core-teaching (common lecture for all students taking the course module) and group teaching (students will be divided into groups and receive instruction).

2.6 Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction for the LLB programme shall be English. However, there will be a transitional period until the University Grants Commission issues instructions regarding the change of the medium of instruction to the prospective students. The Faculty is committed to providing a supportive mechanism for the students to follow the degree programme in English.

2.7 Blended Learning

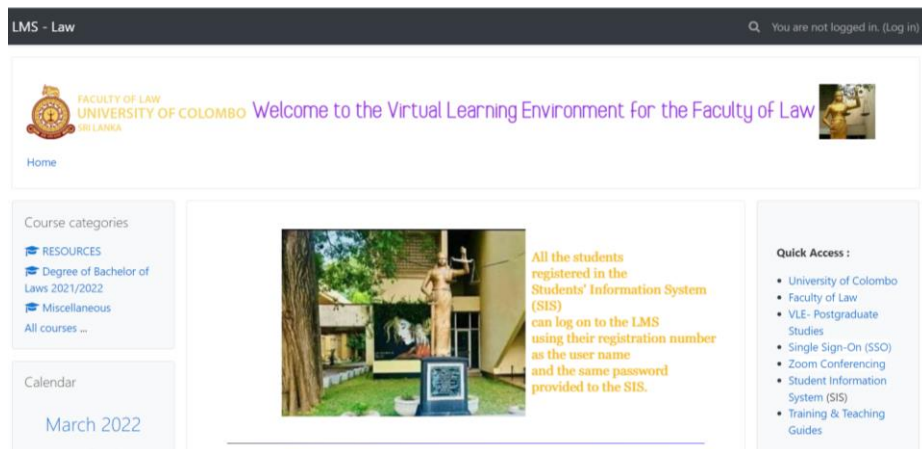
Blended learning is teaching and learning where students have the opportunity to learn online as well as onsite depending on the circumstances. It provides the unique benefit of technological assistance that could result in an overall vibrant session as well as allowing for close contact with the academic staff.

2.7.1. Learning Management System (LMS)

The Learning Management System of the Faculty of Law is a virtual e-learning system that provides remotely accessible learning/study content to individuals. It is also called a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The globally accepted and widely used Moodle software package has been used to develop this facility. This system runs on the World Wide Web, connecting students from any part of the country. It has tools that allow interaction between students and teachers, exchange of information and material available for study, creating a digital classroom.

All the students registered in the Students' Information System (SIS) of the University of Colombo may log on to the LMS using their registration number as the username and the same password provided for the SIS.

It is preferred that you use Firefox or Chrome browsers while using the LMS. Open your browser and go to the website - <https://lms.law.cmb.ac.lk/> to login to the Faculty of Law LMS.



2.7.2. Email

All students currently registered at the University of Colombo are assigned an email address. Users can access it through a web browser on a PC or using the Gmail app on a mobile device. The University and the Faculty usually send all official emails to this address. Students are expected to check their official e-mail account on a frequent and consistent basis to stay up to date with university-related activities. For all University communications, all students must use only their student email account. The University does not recognize a message sent from a personal e-mail account as official.

Creating email accounts is handled by the Network Operations Centre (NOC), University of Colombo. Student email accounts are created based on the registration number and the students are given an email with the format student_id@stu.cmb.ac.lk (replace 'student_id' with your Student ID number). Student email accounts will be suspended two months after the students' convocation.

When a user account is created the user is given a temporary password. You will be prompted to change this password at the first login. In case the user has forgotten or lost the password, he/she should send a request to the NOC through the faculty IT Coordinator or the Administrator to reset the password.

2.7.3. Computer Facilities

The computer facilities of the Faculty of Law, Colombo are open to all students duly registered with the Faculty.

2.8 Attendance and Leave of Absence

Attendance

From the rationale for a university and for the creation of the Faculty of Law outlined before, it is clear that university education is unique, and is different from education at a tutorial or similar educational institution.

The university is a community that is dedicated to developing and disseminating knowledge. Students are an important part of this community and ought to acquire and nurture a habit of mind. Therefore attendance at lectures, discussion and tutorials and the active participation in the life of the university community is essential.

There can be no distance education for students in a traditional university system. Full time, active and engaged undergraduates are essential for a university.

There is a more practical consideration for compulsory attendance. Thousands of students, supported by their parents and families, invest considerable time and money to sit university entrance Examinations and qualify for admission. Only a small fraction of those who qualify for admission are successful in obtaining a place in the university. Competition for admission to the Faculty of Law is particularly competitive.

In such a context, a person who obtains a place in the Faculty of Law should be mindful of the fact that he or she is in effect depriving other students with similar marks from being selected for a place in the Faculty. It is, therefore, unethical and unfair for an undergraduate selected to the Faculty to occupy such a sought-after place and not participate as a full time undergraduate. The 'Mahapola' scholarship scheme and other undergraduate bursary and loan schemes are specially designed to alleviate the economic pressures of being full time undergraduates.

2.9. Medical Certificates

All students who are unable to appear for the theory and/or practical component of examinations/lectures due to medical reasons should submit a Medical Certificate issued by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)/University Medical Officer (UMO) of the University of Colombo or a valid Medical Certificate recommended by the CMO/UMO if they seek relief.

Such students should make a request in writing (letter/fax/email to the Dean or SAR/Examination) for relief, indicating the reasons for

such absence within 3 (three) working days from the date of absence from such examinations/lectures/practical.

Students are advised to strictly adhere to the following guidelines in this regard. Failure to follow the guidelines may result in the Medical Certificates not being accepted and the absence being treated as one without valid excuse:

(i).(a) A student who falls ill during a period of examination should report to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)/University Medical Officer (UMO) of the University of Colombo. The CMO/UMO will examine the student and issue a Medical Certificate, if necessary.

(b) Where the CMO/UMO decides to issue a Medical Certificate, She/he will be forwarding it to the Dean of the Faculty/SAR Examinations. It will be done within a period of two weeks. The student in question is advised to verify with the Dean/SAR Examinations whether the Medical Certificate had been received from the CMO/UMO.

ii. (a) A student who resides outside Colombo city limits and falls ill during a period of examination or who finds it difficult to report to the CMO/UMO due to seriousness of the illness, should get treatment, preferably from the nearest Government Medical Institution or in exceptional cases, from Registered Medical Practitioners or in such instances, he / she should follow the procedure given below with regard to submission of medical certificates:

All Medical Certificates other than those issued by the CMO/UMO with the proof of informing the Dean/SAR Examination, should be forwarded to the CMO / UMO along with the application form (when applicable)

within 7 (seven) days from the last date of recommended medical leave.

iii. (a) CMO/UMO shall have the discretion to decline to give her/his recommendations or observations on the Medical Certificate submitted and received after the above period.

(b) The following categories of Medical Certificates will only be accepted by the UMO/CMO for consideration when they are submitted in terms of the above guidelines:

(i) Medical Certificates issued by a Government Hospital/District Medical Officer

(ii) Medical Certificate issued by a Private Medical Practitioner only in the case of leave for less than five days, provided CMO/UMO may, at their discretion, in appropriate cases, consider accepting a Medical Certificate issued by a Private Practitioner where the nature and seriousness of the illness and the treatment prescribed, in the opinion of the CMO/UMO are acceptable.

(iii) The CMO / UMO may request the following documents as further proof of the illness:

- Receipt or payment for the Medical Certificate from a Government Hospital.
- Prescriptions of the medicines taken.
- Reports of the blood tests etc.

(If the required documents are not submitted the application may be rejected)

The CMO/UMO shall not take any responsibility for the acceptance or rejection of Medical Certificates issued by any outside institution. It will be the responsibility of the student who has sought medical assistance from such institution.

If and when necessary, the UMO may arrange a Medical Board to consider a request for medical leave by a student.

2.10 Other Appeals/ Requests by Undergraduates

If you have a question about any academic matter speak to a lecturer, the relevant Head or / and the Dean to obtain advice. If you wish to appeal against a decision of the Faculty, eg. regarding the attendance requirement, the inability to meet a deadline for the submission of an assignment or if you wish to make a request for leave of absence from studies, you should write either to the Dean or the relevant Head. Your appeal/request will be studied by the Sub-Committee on Routine Matters and a recommendation will be made to the Faculty Board. Please note that the Routine Matters Sub-Committee meets only once a month. Therefore, such requests should be made well in advance.

2.11 English

2.11.1. Role of English in Learning Law

Today, the Faculty of Law requires prospective law students to show a particular level of competence in English to enter the Faculty. It is not unusual to demand a competency in a language to enter a

Faculty. It should be remembered that until 1968, prospective law students had to show a competence in Latin to gain entry to the Law Faculty.

Until the early 1970s, law was taught entirely in English. However, as a result of a policy decision taken by the then Government, legal education became available in all three languages. *The Faculty, however, has always emphasized the importance of developing proficiency in English among its undergraduates.* The importance of English to the study of law cannot be overemphasized. Some of the reasons are given below:

It is vital that students be proficient in English as approximately 95% of all legal materials – cases, legislation, textbooks and journals - are available only in English.

The Faculty promotes independent study and the ability to think independently and critically. Law undergraduates must, therefore, have the capacity to read widely, and understand and reflect upon the prescribed legal materials, which are mostly in English.

The Faculty also promotes the comparative study of the law. Law undergraduates are exposed to trends and legal ideas from other countries. Since this comparative material is available exclusively in English, undergraduates not proficient in English would be at a disadvantage.

English is also important for accessing an increasing number of materials available on the Internet and the World Wide Web. Although legal education has been offered in Sinhala and Tamil for many years, several aspects of the legal system in courts function only in English.

Though in the lower court, proceedings are conducted mainly in Sinhala or Tamil, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal function in English. Submissions and pleadings are tendered in English, arguments are made in English and judgments are also delivered in English.

In addition, those who wish to pursue postgraduate study, either in Sri Lanka or abroad will be required to be proficient in English as these courses are conducted entirely in English. Further, it is necessary to write all dissertations for higher degrees in law in English.

2.12 Examinations and Evaluation

Examinations and evaluation constitute an inseparable part of academic programmes conducted by any university. It is essential that the performance of law undergraduates be evaluated as objectively as possible and their level of achievement conveyed to them. The performance of a student shall be evaluated through a system of in-course assessments and/or end-of-course assessment in respect of each Course Module. The relevant rules are reproduced below.

The in-course assessment shall be based on the performance of the students at assignments, classroom tests, seminars, oral presentations, workshops, tutorials, legal clinics, internship programme, individual and group projects, paper-presentations, class participation, dissertation or any other form of assessment approved by the Faculty Board.

Each student shall work on a research study leading to the submission of a Dissertation in Year IV of the Degree Programme.

All rules/By-Laws relating to the Examination Procedure, Offences and Punishment made by the University of Colombo shall apply in relation to the examinations of the Degree Programme.

A student shall not be permitted to take a Semester Examination unless the Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the respective Head of the Department, has certified that she/he has satisfied the requirements of the relevant Course Modules, including regular attendance at classes and submission of assignments at the appropriate time, as prescribed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.

The Semester Examinations prescribed by these By-Laws shall be conducted by Boards of Examiners appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.

A candidate shall present herself/himself for each Semester Examination of Course Modules leading to the Degree on the first occasion on which the examination is held, provided that it shall be within the power of the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law to permit her/him to sit on a subsequent occasion if she/he has been prevented from sitting the examination due to illness or any other cause acceptable to the Faculty Board.

A student shall not be eligible to proceed to the next academic year without obtaining a minimum of fifteen (15) credits out of the Course Modules offered in a given academic year.

A candidate who fails to complete any of the Course Module in the first attempt shall be eligible to repeat that/those Course Module/s within a maximum of two (02) other subsequent occasions unless the approval of the Senate is obtained to do otherwise.

The weightage for the end-semester examination and in-course assessment for a Course Module may be sixty percent (60%) and forty percent (40%) respectively for the final mark assigned to a Course Module. There shall be one in-course assessment for each Course Module, provided that the above shall not apply where there is no end-semester examination is conducted for a given Course Module.

All in-course assessments of any Course Module shall be carried out during the semester in which the Course Module is taught unless otherwise decided by the Senate.

In the case of a repeat candidate or absentee of the end-semester examination, the marks already obtained for in-course assessments shall be carried forward for the computation of marks for the next attempt.

If a candidate repeats a Course Module obtaining less than fifty percent (50%) of the allocated marks for the assignment she/he may re-sit the assignment on the next immediate occasion, provided that a repeat candidate shall not be allocated a mark of more than fifty percent (50%) out of the total.

2.12.1. End-Semester Examination

Unless the Senate otherwise decides on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, end-semester examinations shall be conducted at the end of each Semester of the Degree Programme.

The number of question papers and the title of those papers for each Course Module of the Semester Examination of the Programme shall be those set out in the relevant By-Laws or Regulations, and the Senate shall have the power, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, to amend, vary, increase or decrease them.

Each registered student shall make an application in the form provided by the Examination Unit for entry to the relevant Semester Examination.

No application for a Semester Examination made by any student shall be entertained by the Examination Branch unless the Heads of each Department have certified that the student has satisfied the minimum required percentage of attendance for each Course Module taught in that Semester.

A student shall not take any of the Semester Examinations on more than three occasions and in computing the total number of occasions there shall be taken into account any occasion on which she/he is deemed to have taken the Semester Examination in terms of these By-laws.

A student who passes in Course Modules aggregating to not less than fifteen (15) GP credits may proceed to the next academic year and repeat the Course Modules in which she/he had failed while sitting for the Course Modules of the current academic year for which she/he has registered for. Provided that no student will be eligible to proceed to the next academic year when she/he has failed in Course Modules whose credit values aggregate to more than fifteen (15) GP credits.

2.12.2. Computation of Results

For the final evaluation of the performance of a student in a Course Module in any semester of the Degree Programme, that percentage of the marks obtained by her/him at the in-course assessment as well as that percentage of the marks obtained by her/him at the semester examination, as decided by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall be taken into account.

Each Course Module at every examination of the Degree Programme shall carry a maximum of 100 marks and be assessed or graded with a mark and a grade according to the following scale:

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade point value	Pass/Fail
90-100	A+	4.00	Pass
80-89	A	4.00	
75-79	A-	3.70	
70-74	B+	3.30	
65-69	B	3.00	
60-64	B-	2.70	
55-59	C+	2.30	
50-54	C	2.00	Fail
45-49	C-	1.70	
40-44	D+	1.30	
30-39	D	1.00	
00-29	E	0.00	

- i. Each of the Course Module shall carry a maximum Grade Point Value (hereinafter called GPV) of 4.00.
- ii. A candidate is deemed to have failed a Course Module if she/he has obtained a Grade lower than C.
- iii. A candidate shall obtain a GPV of 2.00 or more for each of the Course Modules to pass those particular Course Modules.
- iv. The maximum grade that could be awarded to a repeat candidate is C.

A student who absents herself/himself from the examination in a Course Module without a valid excuse acceptable to the Senate, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall be deemed to have failed in the Course Module and, for the purpose of computation of results, she/he shall be deemed to have received zero marks (GPV 0.00) for the Course Module.

2.12.3. Student Information System

The Student Information System (SIS) (<https://sis.cmb.ac.lk/law/>) handles all the examination related matters of the undergraduates including registration for the academic year, academic course registration, year-end examination registration. It also processes examination marks. Students may view their examinations results via SIS and may apply for the academic transcript/ results sheets. Registration to the General Convocation too is enabled via SIS.

SIS is administered by the Examination and Registration Branch of the University of Colombo. Students are strictly advised to use the email address issued to them by the University in all university

communications. SIS login credentials will provide students access to the faculty Learning Management System (LMS).

Students may report any issues they encounter with the SIS to the Examinations Branch of the University of Colombo.

2.12.4. Examination Rules and Offences

Please refer to Annexure - I for the rules relating to Examination Offences and their punishments. **It is very important that the students familiarize themselves with these rules.**

2.13 Graduating with Honours

As per Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree By-Laws made by the Council of the University of Colombo under Section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, as amended by the Universities (Amendment) Act No.7 of 1985, a student may graduate with honours as per the following rules;

43. During the study period, a student accumulates grade points from the various Course Modules offered. From the Grade Point Values accumulated, a Grade Point Average (GPA) may be calculated using the formula given below where; $i = i^{\text{th}}$ course, $n =$ number of courses completed during the period considered for the GPA calculation, $C_i =$ number of credits for the i^{th} course, and $(GP)_i =$ Grade Point for the i^{th} course

44. A candidate shall be deemed to have qualified for the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree, if she/he passes in all the Course Modules of four (04) years obtaining not lower than a C grade,

except in only one Course Module with not lower than D grade and obtains a Grade Point Average (GPA) not less than 2.00.

45. A candidate shall pass all the NGP Course Modules in order to be qualified for the award of the Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree.

46. A candidate who has satisfied the requirements of the Bachelor of Law Honours Degree Programme may be awarded First Class Honours, Second Class (Upper Division) Honours, Second Class (Lower Division) Honours, or a Pass as the case may be, on the results of all the GP Course Modules of all four (04) years offered by the candidate under the Programme.

47. A candidate shall have obtained an overall Grade Point Average of 3.70 or above to obtain First Class Honours. A candidate shall have obtained an overall Grade Point Average which is between 3.3 and 3.69 to obtain Second Class (Upper Division) Honours. A candidate shall have obtained an overall Grade Point Average between 3.00 and 3.29 to obtain a Second Class (Lower Division) Honours. The minimum Grade Point Average for a Pass shall be 2.00.

Cut-off points of the Grade Point Average

1st Class = $\text{GPA} > 3.70$

2nd Upper = $3.3 < \text{GPA} < 3.69$

2nd Lower = $3.0 < \text{GPA} < 3.29$

Pass = 2.00 <GPA <2.99

48. When a “Fail” Course Module is successfully completed at a subsequent attempt the actual grade obtained by the student for the repeat course will be shown in the transcript. However, when computing the GPA, the maximum grade point value assigned to that Course Module will be 2.00.

2.14 Prizes and Awards

2.13.1. Granted by the Faculty of Law

Several prizes are awarded to students who excel in their academic work at the Faculty. For more details, you are advised to consult the Examinations Unit of the Faculty or the Examinations Branch of the University.

2.14.2. Granted by the University

- The Student of the Year Award

The award is granted to a student who shows excellence in his or her academic studies and also someone with sportsmanship, an interest in aesthetic and cultural activities, with proven leadership and exemplary conduct and character.

- The D.P.P. Samarasekera Peace Prize

The prize is given to a student who worked to foster social harmony either within the University Community or

outside it through diverse activities and/or to a student who assisted those in need in a courteous, considerate, kind and understanding manner.

- The Canekeratne Prize for General Merit

This prize is limited to the student who receives First or Second Class Upper Division in a Special Degree from any Faculty. This student should show considerable achievements in extracurricular activities, such as holding the captaincy or getting colours in a University 'A' team; having achievements in Debating or Oratory Competitions; producing or acting as lead in plays for recognized University Societies; or winning Gold, Silver or a Bronze Medal at University cultural or similar activity. The eligible student must also have a positive academic record with good attendance and excellent conduct throughout the entire period spent at the University. The student must provide documentary evidence to prove his/her eligibility.

- Prof. Thilak Hettiarachchi Award for Academic Excellence

This award is granted to an undergraduate who secures a First Class in a Special or General Degree Programme of any Faculty in the University. Consideration is given to publications and research carried out during his/her career, prizes and medals won, scholarships/studentships obtained at the Year I examination and any other scholarships/bursaries, including the Commonwealth Elective Bursary obtained for academic performance during the undergraduate career.

2.15 Generic Graduate Attributes

Upon completion of the LL.B. degree, the Faculty expects all graduates to demonstrate the following attributes.

1. Access, interpret and apply the law in a given context

A graduate will be able to offer an assessment of the applicable law in relation to an appropriate situation

2. Develop and effectively articulate legal arguments

A graduate will be able to advance arguments for legal interpretation based on current research and evaluation of the findings of such research

3. Critique the law and propose law reform where relevant based on respect for human dignity and its diversity, the natural environment, and the rule of law

A graduate will be able to evaluate the normative and practical impact of the law and suggest innovative means of reform for improving respect for human rights and human diversity, the protection of the environment and respect for the rule of law

She will accept responsibility to play a constructive role in the maintenance and reform of the legal system. She will understand, evaluate and critically reflect upon the interaction of law and society

4. Effective communication

A graduate will be able to communicate with clarity, consideration and conviction in English and in Sinhala or Tamil as appropriate. He will be able to use English to keep abreast of relevant developments in law and communicate in Sinhala/Tamil in fulfilling their professional obligations.

5. Leadership, ethical and professional conduct

In her actions and interactions, a graduate will be ethical and professional. She will be able to collaborate with colleagues and assume positions of leadership. She will provide a quality service to employers, government and individual clients

6. Engage in life-long learning for professional and personal development

A graduate will be able to continuously advance and update their legal knowledge, improve their legal and general skills and progress in their professional and personal capacity.

Part III: Student Life

3.1. Student Life as an Undergraduate

The Faculty of Law encourages students to engage in academics with gusto and fervour. Student life is much greater than what happens in a classroom and an examination hall. At the Faculty of Law, you will have countless doors open to you. Your challenge is to participate, pick and progress. The wide variety of extra-curricular activities that are available would develop your personality, form bonds of friendship with students within and outside our faculty and teach you to navigate that intricate balance between study and play.

Sir Ivor Jennings (founding Vice Chancellor of the University of Ceylon) in his essay on student life entitled ‘The Use of a University Education’ (1949) wrote,

“What you must do, then, if you wish to succeed both here and in your careers is to work regularly and consistently at your course-modules, to read as widely as you can, to play games and take part in some other university activities, and to take an interest in the social, political and cultural movements that are going on around you.”

“The fact that some of you will then be among the leaders of your profession and of your country is what makes university teaching so exciting.”

“Even so, it is not the eminent who determine the success of a university. We take pride in our famous men, but we are prouder still if we produce generation after generation of ordinary men and women who do their jobs honestly and conscientiously.”

Lady Hale, of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, in an interview conducted by Suzanne Bearne entitled “Studying law? Make sure you have the stomach for it” (2018) stated the following,

“Find out as much as you can, not only about careers in the law, but also about what it is like to study law. There’s no harm in being enthusiastic about the fight for justice, or romantic about the criminal trial process, or ambitious for the rich rewards which some lawyers can achieve. But you have to go through a lot of hard work studying to achieve any of those, so make sure that you have the stomach for it.”

Equipped with the understanding that a world of opportunity is open to you, waiting to be pursued at the Faculty of Law, the section that follows gives you an insight into the activities that you can pursue in your four years at Faculty.

3.2 Students’ Union and Faculty Board Representation

Elections to the Law Faculty Students’ Union are held every year during the first term, after nominations have been received by the Dean. These elections are governed by the Bylaws of the University and undergraduates are advised to consult them.

As per the bylaw on No. 1 of 1989, every registered undergraduate student of a Faculty is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for election of office-bearer or member of the Faculty Students Union.

Elections are a democratic process and the Faculty encourages all students to engage in student politics.

3.3 Societies

The following societies in the Faculty of Law provide an opportunity for undergraduates to engage in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities during their course of study:

- a) The Sports Society
- b) The Moot Court and Debating Society
- c) The Human Rights Society
- d) Association for Aesthetic Dimensions of Law

The Sports Society provides an opportunity for undergraduates to take part in activities relating to sports, while students interested in human rights issues can engage in various activities under the guidance of the Human Rights Society. The Moot Court and Debating Society offers students the opportunity to participate in debating and mooting competitions at the national and international levels. The Association for Aesthetic Dimensions of the law is aimed at providing students the opportunity to inquire into the law from the lens of the creative arts.

3.4 Sports

The University of Colombo offers the following sports which are open to all students of the Faculty of Law.

- Badminton – Men & Women
- Baseball
- Basketball – Men & Women
- Beach Volleyball – Men & Women
- Boxing
- Carrom – Men & Women

- Cricket
- Elle – Men & Women
- Football
- Hockey – Men & Women
- Kabaddi – Men
- Karate – Men & Women
- Netball
- Road Race
- Rowing – Men & Women
- Rugby
- Scrabble – Men & Women
- Table Tennis – Men & Women
- Tennis – Men & Women
- Track & Field – Men & Women
- Volleyball – Men & Women
- Weightlifting – Men
- Wrestling

3.5 Counselling Services

The University provides a free counselling service to all undergraduates with regard to any problem they may have. The student counsellors, who function under the guidance of the Senior Student Counsellor, provide counselling in relation to academic matters as well as personal matters.

An undergraduate may consult either a male Counsellor or a female Counsellor of his/her choice anytime during consultation hours or at any other time with prior appointment. Strict confidentiality is assured to the undergraduates. The Student Counsellors' Office is located in the building between the Arts Faculty and the Main Library. In addition, the Law Faculty has its

own Student Counsellors who may be consulted by the students for advice.

The Student Counsellors for the year of 2023 from the Faculty are as follows:

Permanent Student Counsellor of the Faculty of Law

Mr. Isuru Liyanage (Dept. of Public and International Law)

Temporary Student Counsellors of the Faculty of Law

Mrs. Kaushani Pathirana (Dept. Private and Comparative Law)

Mr. Akalanka Thilakarathna (Dept. Public and International Law)

Mrs. Pramoda Vithanage (Dept. Commercial Law)

Ms. S. Janani (Dept. Private and Comparative Law)

Mr. Dumindu Madhushan (Dept. Private and Comparative Law)

Mr. Kusal Amarasinghe (Dept. Public and International Law)

Ms. Binendri Perera (Dept. Public and International Law)

Mrs. Shermila Antony (Dept. Private and Comparative Law)

Mr. Kavindu Hewa Geeganage (Dept. Commercial Law)

3.6 Student Discipline

Students are expected to behave in a respectful and non-violent manner in order to maintain peace and harmony in the University. Students who act violently or against any rules of the University will be punished according to the gravity of their act.

Provisions of the Universities Act on student discipline

Sections 15(xii) and 135(d) recognize the authority of the University Grants Commission and the governing body of the university to respectively investigate or cause investigation into matters pertaining to discipline of students and to take remedial measures in the event the standards are not being met and enact by-laws in respect of the conditions of resident and the discipline of students.

UGC Circular on Student Discipline

The UGC, in Commission Circular No. 946, has taken action to issue a set of common guidelines on disciplinary procedure and imposing punishments to be adopted by each university.

The list contains offences along with respective punishments which range from severe warning to suspension and withholding of examination results or certificates as appropriate all the way to expulsion depending on the gravity of the offence.

It lists such actions as:

- refusing or neglecting to produce the Student ID when called to do so;
- violation of by-laws;

- destroying, damaging, defacing, alienating, misusing or unlawfully appropriating university property, refusal to carry out lawful orders of the administration;
- furnishing false information;
- being under the influence of or in the possession of an intoxicant, liquor, narcotic or other addictive drug, consuming or supplying liquor, narcotic, addictive drug or gambling within the precincts of the University/Campus;
- disruption of university activities;
- obstruction or harassment of staff members or any other employees of the university;
- prevents or obstructs any student in carrying out his studies, research or other legitimate activity; or
- Abuse/harassment (including any form of ragging/molestation) sexual harassment and/or intimidation whether physical or mental of any student or staff member of the university.

By-law issued by the University

The university by-laws, too, regulate student discipline.

Policy against Sexual Harassment

The University has a policy for the prevention of sexual harassment, and provides a complaints mechanism for persons affected by sexual harassment. It applies to persons and places that come under the aegis of the University of Colombo.

This policy displays the commitment of the University of Colombo towards maintaining a learning environment and workplace that are free of sexual harassment to all persons, irrespective of gender. Based on the fundamental values of human dignity, gender equality

and respect for due process, this policy describes what sexual harassment means, aims to prevent the occurrence of sexual harassment within the University of Colombo, and provides suitable procedures for inquiring into, and punishing acts of sexual harassment.

3.7 Ragging

The harassment of first year undergraduates by senior undergraduates has been a serious problem on university campuses in Sri Lanka. Described as “ragging” the practice originally involved mild teasing of groups of first year undergraduates at social functions organised during the first weeks of the new academic year. It was rationalised and justified as a way of “getting to know” the first-year students and helping them to socialise with seniors in the university community.

Over the years, “ragging” has come to mean extreme harassment and even physical and mental torture of the first-year undergraduates at a time when they need friendship and support to adjust to a new environment of undergraduate life, often away from their homes and families. Ragging is described in Sinhala as “*navaka vadhaya*” and in Tamil as “*pakidi vathi*” and has all the manifestations of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

According to the report of the Committee appointed by the University Grants Commission entitled “Redressing victims of ragging & providing a regulatory mechanism to prevent ragging related abusive conduct in Sri Lankan state universities and higher educational institutions” of 2020 (the “Rag Relief Committee Report”), the first incident of ragging took place in 1975, where several teachers in government schools attending a Diploma course in New Mathematics were subjected to ragging. In the same year, the

second and darker event took place where, Rupa Rathnaseeli, a 22 year-old student of the University of Peradeniya's Faculty of Agriculture, jumped from the second floor of the Ramanathan Hall to escape ragging. She became paralysed and after a prolonged struggle with life, took her own life in 2002.

Since then, the culture has spread its shadow over many an institution and life of a student and resulted in numerous injuries and deaths. To say their names and not their number – in 1993, the death of Chaminda Punchihewa, of the University of Ruhuna, in 1997 the death S. Varapragash, an Engineering student of University of Peradeniya and in the same year of Kelum Thushara Wijetunge, a fresher at the Hardy Technical Institute, Ampara. These unfortunate events led to the enactment of the Prohibition of Ragging Act of 1998.

There is no justification whatsoever for this type of conduct in university, either by senior or first year undergraduates. First year undergraduates who harass their batch-mates in this way are as responsible for ragging as much as seniors who engage in this type of conduct.

Ragging in this form is a criminal activity that violates the criminal law of the land. Any undergraduate found ragging can be reported to the police and arrest and prosecution will follow. In addition, ragging is an infringement of the fundamental rights of the victims, and university authorities themselves become responsible if they fail to take action against the perpetrators. The compensation awarded by the courts has to be paid to the victim of ragging. As undergraduates in the study of law, you are expected to respect these important values and maintain them on our campus.

In the past, undergraduates have been encouraged to think that ragging is a violation of university discipline which can, at most, result

in the imposition of mild sanctions by the university authorities and the governing body. Undergraduates must understand that ragging is a serious criminal offence which goes far beyond the violation of university discipline.

i. *The Prohibition of Ragging Act*

The Prohibition of Ragging Act makes ragging a distinct and punishable offence. Any act which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological injury, fear or mental pain in an undergraduate or a member of staff is called ragging. Not only a person who commits ragging but also those who participate in ragging are liable under the Act. Ragging can take place within or outside an educational institution.

The punishment for ragging is two years rigorous imprisonment. In addition, the court can award compensation to the victim. Where ragging leads to sexual harassment or grievous hurt, the punishment is increased to ten years imprisonment and an award of compensation. The latter offence is generally non-bailable.

In addition, the court can, depending on the gravity of the offence, order the expulsion of a student from an educational institution if that person is found guilty of any of the offences contained in the Act.

ii. *Other offences envisaged under the Act*

Acts of criminal intimidation, hostage taking, wrongful restraint and unlawful confinement committed by any person against any student or a member of the staff, are punishable offences. While the maximum imprisonment for criminal intimidation is five years, other offences each carry a maximum period of seven years imprisonment.

If anyone threatens to cause injury to the person, reputation or property of any student or a member of the staff in order to compel that person to do something which that person is not legally required to do, such action will amount to criminal intimidation. Hostage taking is generally a non-bailable offence.

If any person, forcibly occupies any premises of an educational institution, that person is guilty of an offence. Such person could be imprisoned for ten years or fined up to ten thousand rupees or subjected to both punishments. Similarly, anyone who causes damage to any property of an educational institution commits an offence and could be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty years and a fine which is five thousand rupees or three times the value of the loss or damage, whichever is higher.

iii. *Harm Caused by Ragging*

The Rag Relief Committee, when drafting its report, heard evidence from students who could not commence or continue their higher education in state universities or Higher Education Institutions (“HEIs”) due to ragging or ragging related abuse. The Committee identified the following harms as caused by ragging;

- a. Impact on health
- b. Deprivation of sleep
- c. Impact on food intake
- d. Impact on privacy and leisure/freedom of movement
- e. Impact on academic performance
- f. Impact on personality/social development
- g. Impact on cultural and spiritual development

The staff members of the Faculty of Law have taken a unanimous decision to respond strongly against any undergraduate who engages

in ragging. These undergraduates will be reported to the university authorities as well as to the police for appropriate action. First year undergraduates are, therefore, urged to take a positive stand against ragging. Please join the staff and the majority of undergraduates who reject this criminal conduct and help to eliminate ragging from the Faculty and the University.

Part IV: Becoming a Lawyer

Upon the successful completion of the LLB degree, several career pathways will be open to you. There are several career options that you may pursue as a lawyer including serving in the judiciary, joining the public service, working in a legal firm, management of a company etc. Many associate a career in the law with that of a litigator. To represent anyone before a court of law, you ought to be admitted to the Bar. In Sri Lanka the pathway to admission to the legal profession is through the Sri Lanka Law College.

When you are enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, you become a member of Sri Lanka's legal profession. Many undergraduates go through this process and then chose from the different career pathways that are open to a LLB graduate. Regardless of which career path you chose, once you take your oaths as a lawyer, you are expected to respect the ethics of your profession.

4.1. Professional Responsibility

On the professional responsibilities of lawyers, the following extracts from, Lord Neuberger's speech at a conference of the Bar Councils of Northern Ireland and Ireland, Belfast 'The Future of the Bar' (20 June 2014) are instructive.

'It is right to begin by reminding ourselves that legal practice has an important context not shared by other occupations. Lawyers have a special position in society not because they are loved or because they are particularly admirable people, but because they are responsible for the rule of law. That is true whether they administer law as judges, advise on law as legal advisers or act as advocates in courts and tribunals, whether independent, or employed. The rule of law is fundamental to a modern democratic society.'

‘The special function of lawyers carries with it special responsibilities, which we should never forget. A lawyer has a duty to society, most obviously in the form of a duty to the court in connection with litigation, and that duty, whether or not to the court, is of a greater order than the duty owed by other professionals in the commercial or quasi-commercial world. As the great Lord Bingham put it, a lawyer has to be capable of being trusted to the ends of the earth.’

‘The fact that lawyers have such a duty carries with it privileges and responsibilities (...) Self-interest cannot be ignored, as it is a fundamental human characteristic, probably an aspect of Darwinian survival (...) However, for a lawyer, self-interest has to take a very clear second place to professional and public duties.

The Supreme Court (Conduct of and Etiquette for Attorneys-at-Law) Rules 1988 apply to all lawyers in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Bar Association is the professional body for Sri Lankan lawyers.

4.2. Career Pathways

Career prospects in law are diverse and include opportunities in the official bar, the private bar, the judiciary, academia, the corporate sector, law firms, international organisations, the public service and non-governmental organizations. Employment opportunities are available in Sri Lanka and beyond for graduates of the Faculty. The LLB degree provides undergraduates pathways to higher studies, professional development and more broadly equips you to flourish as an individual and serve your community.

4.3. Attorneys-at-Law Examination

It is important to bear in mind that, after successfully completing the LL.B. Degree at the Faculty, in order to enter the legal profession (i.e. to practise as a lawyer), law graduates have to qualify the examinations conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College, which is administered by the Council of Legal Education. Exemptions that will be provided to LL.B. graduates are determined by the Council of Legal Education.

Once the Final Examination of the Law College is completed, students have to undergo a period of six-month apprenticeship with a senior lawyer, in addition to following the practical training programme conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College.

4.4. Alumni Associations

Upon graduation, a graduate becomes an alumnus of that university. An Alumni Association is a way of serving society and the university. At the University of Colombo many alumni support the University in their individual capacity and also collectively through alumni associations. Undergraduates at the Faculty benefit from the support offered by two alumni associations at the University: the Alumni Association of the Law Faculty and the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo.

Alumni Association of the Law Faculty

Graduates of the Faculty of Law have formed an Association called the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Law (AAFL). This was formed

under the leadership of the late Justice Mark Fernando, who was the president for many years.

The AAFL has been actively involved in the interests of the students of the Faculty. Its activities include the organisation of guest lectures, seminars, webinars and discussions on a variety of course-modules, conducting career guidance sessions, implementing a mentorship programme, internship programmes and helping in apprenticeship placements.

Alumni Association of the University

The Alumni Association of the University of Colombo is the apex body of the alumni of various faculties of the University, forming a link between its membership and the University. Today, the Association continues its role of fostering close ties between the student body, University and its alumni.

The Alumni Association of the University of Colombo views its role as “connectors” and thought leaders very seriously and to this end, not only conducts various programmes and initiatives targeting the development and welfare of undergraduates and its members but also conducts public forums to create awareness and discussion in matters of public importance. (Adapted from <https://colomboalumni.org/>)

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Annexure I

Examination Offences and Punishments

All the examination offences are reported to the Examination Committee. The Committee should investigate and make recommendations including punishments. The decision of the Examination committee is forwarded to the Senate and any appeal against the decision of the Senate shall be made to the Examination Committee which shall then be considered by the Examination Committee and a recommendation, if any, made.

Examination offences may be classified as follows:

	Offence	Punishments
Examination Offences Inside the Exam Hall		
1.	Possession of unauthorized notes/formulas/documents /equipment⁴	
	1.1. Notes/formulas written on University material (Admission card /University Answer sheets etc.) [Answer books/ sheets, Admission Cards, Graph papers, Statistical Papers, Maps and any document provided by the University are considered as University Materials.]	Minimum of cancellation of the results of that particular paper and a maximum of the cancellation of the results of the semester/year end/stream examination, in which the offence occurred.
	1.2. Notes/ formulas written on a non-university Material including paper, pencil case, calculator, clothes, own body etc.	
	1.3. Possession of electronic equipment such as mobile phones, tablets, note-books, data processing wrist-watches, etc.	
2.	Copy or attempt to copy	
	2.1 Copy or attempt to copy from the script of another candidate.	Results of the paper of that semester/year-end /stream examination, which the offence occurred, will be cancelled.
	2.2 Facilitating or providing opportunity to others in the hall to copy by keeping his/her answer scripts or any other document in such a way that the other candidate/s can see or by word of mouth or by signs and gestures.	
3.	Removing examination stationery or any other material provided for the examination out of the examination hall	Written warning by Vice Chancellor for the 1 st instance. Cancellation of the results of the exam paper for repetition of the offence.
4.	Writing name on the answer script	Written warning by the Dean of the Faculty and cancellation of results of the paper on repetition for the following years.
5.	Disorderly Conduct	

⁴ Where a student has been in possession of unauthorized material at an examination hall, he/she shall be presumed to have made use of such material until him/her proves the contrary.

5.1	Not carrying out the instructions of Supervisor/Invigilators (disorderly conduct) during the examination and immediately before and after it inside the exam hall.	Cancellation of the results of the paper or to expel the student from the Hall once he/she refuses to abide by the instructions given by the Supervisor in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty.
5.2	Disturbing supervisor or his/her staff, or to other candidates in the examination hall or its precincts.	
6. Impersonation		
6.1	Impersonating any candidate in the examination hall or attempt to do so before the commencement of the examination	Expel the impersonator from the Examination Hall and cancellation of the impersonator's (if impersonator is also a student of the university) entire year examinations in which the offence occurred and debar the impersonator from sitting any university examination in next three subsequent academic years. If the impersonator is an outsider, the matter requires inquiry and informing appropriate authorities.
6.2	Allowing himself / herself to be impersonated by another person	Cancellation of the candidate's entire year's examinations in which the offence occurred and debar from sitting any university examination in next three subsequent academic years.
Examination Offences Outside the Exam Hall		
7.	Obtain or attempt to obtain prior knowledge of Examination papers / questions	
7.1	Obtain or attempt to obtain prior knowledge of Examination papers/questions	Cancel the results of the entire semester/year/ stream examination and to be reported for disciplinary action.
7.2	Aiding and abetting to the above by another candidate	
8.	Plagiarism⁵ (Submitting assignments/term papers /project reports/Extended Essays /Dissertation /Thesis which has been done wholly or partly by anyone other than the candidate and quoting someone else's work without giving proper citation)	
8.1	Assignments/term papers/project Reports (considered as an assessment component of the subject/course unit)	Assign zero marks and written warning by the Dean of the Faculty.
8.2	Extended Essays/ Dissertation (considered as a subject/course unit)	Cancellation of the results of the extended essays/dissertation and consider it as an exhausted attempt.
8.3	Thesis/Dissertation/Research paper (partial requirement of Postgraduate Degree)	Cancellation of the results of the thesis/dissertation/research paper and suspension from the University for such period as the Senate decides on the recommendation of the Examination Committee.
8.4	Thesis /Dissertation (Full requirement of the Postgraduate Degree)	Cancellation of his/her candidature and debarment for future registration for any postgraduate programme in the University.

⁵ Plagiarism is defined as plagiarism above the accepted the cut-off/threshold level

	8.5 Aiding and abetting any of the above examination offence shall be deemed to have committed that offence.	If aiding and abetting is done by another candidate of the University, the same punishment as the person committing the offence is applicable.
9.	Forging signature of any official of the University or Outsiders related to the Examination process and alteration of official documents	
	9.1 In dissertation/thesis - by undergraduates	Cancellation of result of the dissertation/thesis and consider it as an exhausted attempt.
	9.2 In other examination or official documents (such as transcript, testamur) - by undergraduates	Appropriate punishment recommended by the Examination Committee and decided by the Senate.
	9.3 In any document (including dissertation/thesis, transcripts, testamur) - by Postgraduate students	Cancellation of candidature in the programme.

Notes: Those who are punished for Examinations offence will not be eligible for a Class or a Merit/Distinction pass. They are not eligible for any awards, prizes or scholarships, which are awarded for academic excellence.