

**Ministry of Higher Education and Highways**  
**SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED**  
**TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SLIATE)**

**Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and**  
**Development (AHEAD)**

**Results Area Two:**  
**Improve the Quality of Higher Education**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR  
MASTERS DEGREES

GUIDELINES FOR SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SLIATE)

**March 2020**





## ABBREVIATIONS

AHEAD	Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development Operation
ATI	Advanced Technical Institute
ERD	External Resources Department
HEI	Higher Education Institute
HRD	Human Resource Development
MHEH	Ministry of Higher Education and Highways
OMST	Policy Planning and Development Unit
SLIATE	Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technical Education

# CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2. Result Area Two: Improve the Quality of Higher Education .....	1
1.3. Postgraduate Scholarships.....	1
2. KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS .....	2
3. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.....	2
3.1. The distribution of scholarships by year .....	2
3.2. Funding allocation .....	2
4. ELIGIBILITY.....	3
5. NOMINATION PROCESS .....	3
5. SELECTION CRITERIA .....	4
6. AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS .....	4
7. RELEASE OF FUNDS .....	5
8. AGREEMENT AND BOND.....	5
9. REPORTING .....	5
10. TIME LINE FOR APPLICATIONS .....	5
Annex 2 - Key Steps – Masters Degree Scholarships .....	11

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## *1.1 Background*

The development of the higher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to develop from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed, as part of the Bank's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) FY17-FY20, to support the higher education sector through a Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

## **THE AHEAD PROGRAM**

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation is organized into two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program (HEDP). The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second component will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways (MHEH). The MHEH will be assisted at the national level by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Sri Lanka Institute for Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE). The Operations Monitoring and Support Unit (OMST) of the MHEH will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the MHEH, UGC, SLIATE, Universities and Advanced Technological Institutes (ATIs).

## *1.2. Result Area Two: Improve the Quality of Higher Education*

**Objective:** To increase the academic quality, and economic and social relevance, of higher education programs.

**Sub-Result Area 2.1: Increase the proportion of academic staff with master's degrees for the SLIATE ATIs.**

## *1.3. Postgraduate Scholarships*

In SLIATE ATIs, it is estimated that about 107 academic staff do not possess Masters Degrees. The project will support them to obtain Masters Degrees in national universities in

Sri Lanka and Industry experience through a work-place placement element during Masters Training. All Master Degrees are expected to be done in the English Medium.

## **2. KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. Candidate should be a permanent member of the academic staff of a SLIAT ATI
2. Candidates need to register in a National University in Sri Lanka Medium of Instruction of all Masters Degrees should be English.
3. The Masters Degrees shall include a project component and submission of a project report.
4. During the training period, SLIATE shall organize an Industry Placement for the candidate.
5. Masters Degrees shall be relevant to the courses that the candidates are expected to deliver.
6. Master's Degree programs should also be acceptable to SLIATE (*SLIATE has already identified Masters degrees relevant to them*)

## **3. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

### ***3.1. The distribution of scholarships by year***

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total No. of Scholarships for Masters Degree programs</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

### ***3.2. Funding allocation***

- 1) A total maximum amount of LKR 500,000 for course fees shall be provided for each Candidate of the Masters degree. In the event the awardee fails the first attempt and needs to repeat his/her exams, payments related to such repeat exams (e.g. exam fee, additional registration fees) will have to be borne by the awardee.
- 2) A stipend of LKR 16,000 per month, for the normal period of such Masters' Degree in the university. If the awardee fails the first attempt and needs to repeat his/her exams, he/she will not be eligible for payment during the repeat attempt.
- 3) Reimbursement of IELTS registration fees by the AHEAD operation if they obtain the minimum score of 5.5.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY**

The Scholarships will be available to academic staff of SLIATE without Masters Degree, subject to the following eligibility criteria:

1. The Candidate should be a permanent member of the academic staff.
2. The Candidate should have obtained IELTS minimum score 5.5 or equivalent at the time of commencement of training.
3. The Candidate should satisfy the minimum entry requirements of the proposed Masters Programme.
4. Age limit of the Candidate shall be less than 45 years.
5. The Candidate shall have a minimum service period of 1 year.
6. This scholarship offer will be valid only for 6 month after awarding

#### **5. NOMINATION PROCESS**

1. The application form is given in Annex 1.
2. Selection process for the Masters Degree program will be as follows;
  - Candidates will make their applications to the SLIATE Selection Board with the recommendation of the ATI where the candidate is employed. Documentary evidence for the relevant course fees payable to the intended Master's Degree program should be submitted together with the application form.
  - SLIATE selection Board shall carry out the selection based on the selection criteria given in table 6.1.
  - Composition of the SLIATE Selection Board: Deputy Director General (Administration & Finance), Deputy Director General (Academic Affairs Planning & Research), and Senior Academic Expert, Management and Monitoring of the AHEAD operation who will also serve as the Secretary to the Board.
3. The Board shall send the nomination list and mark schedule along with the applications to the Director General SLIATE for concurrence.
4. OMST will obtain the necessary no objection from the World Bank.
5. The award of scholarships after no objection from the World Bank shall be notified by the Senior Academic Expert, Management and Monitoring of the OMST, to the Director General of SLIATE, the selected candidates, and the Director of the respective ATI.
6. The Key Steps of Nomination Process is given in Annex 5.

## 5. SELECTION CRITERIA

	Criteria	Maximum points
1	Academic qualifications ( <i>refer 6.1.1 below</i> )	30
2	Relevant professional qualification (5 points per qualification)	10
4	Period of service since joining the academic staff (2 per year)	10
5	Academic Management activities HoD/Syndicate/Academic Board (1 per year)	10
6	Extra curricular activities (organization of/participation at, events) (2 per event)*	10
7	Performance: Work load, Evaluation of students, results etc.*	15
8	Interaction with private sector employers (e.g. industry, firms, chambers of commerce)	15
	Total	100

*5.1.1. Academic Qualifications* - Allocation of points will be on the following basis:

- First Degree
  - 1st Class (Special) - 20 pts.
  - Upper 2nd (Special) - 15 pts.
  - Lower 2nd (Special) - 12 pts.
  - 1st Class (General) - 10 pts.
  - Upper 2nd (General) - 5 pts.
- Postgraduate Diploma - 10 pts

*\* In selection of the candidates based on this criteria, consideration has to be given to the plausibility of the candidate to carry out these activities within the time period the candidate has been in service. And hence, a reasonable comparison needs to be carried out only among the candidates of the same level in terms of working experience.*

## 6. AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1. The award of scholarships shall be notified to the selected candidates, the Director of the respective ATI, and the Director General of SLIATE by the OMST.

2. The candidate shall find a placement for the stipulated Masters programme at a University in accordance with the key features stated above under section 2 within a period of 6 months.

## **7. RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Funds to be released to SLIATE, and SLIATE in turn will make payments based on the guidelines provided by the OMST. Prior to the release of first installment of the grant, the following documents needs to be submitted to SLIATE and OMST.

- Letter of Acceptance from the Trainer University.
- Letter/Invoice from Trainer University with regard to the fees structure.
- IELTS scores
- A certified copy of the surety bond and the agreement with SLIATE

## **8. AGREEMENT AND BOND**

Among the standard clauses, the bond signed between the SLIATE and the Grantee shall include clauses to recover funds in case of misuse of funds and non-completion of training.

## **9. REPORTING**

1. The relevant Progress Reports of Course Coordinators and attendance at the end of each semester to be submitted through Head of the Department and the Director ATI to the SLIATE with a copy to OMST.
2. Performance of continuous assessment and end of semester/year examination to be submitted to through Head of the Department and the Director ATI to the SLIATE with a copy to OMST.
3. A Copy of the Project Report/Thesis on completion to be submitted to OMST.

## **10. TIME LINE FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Round & 2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

Completed

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Round**

Call for applications - 02nd March 2020

Deadline for submission of applications - 31st March 2020



## Annex 1: Application Form - Scholarships for Masters Degrees

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN- AHEAD

#### Scholarship for Masters Degrees for SLIATE Academic Staff - Round 03

Reference No	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	<b>Office Use</b>
Selected	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reserved	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### Part A

<b>1. Personal Information</b>									
Family Name (Surname):				First/Other names:					
Rev./Dr./Mr./Ms:				Gender:			Nationality:		
Date of Birth:	Day	Month	Year	Age:			N.I.C No:		
E-mail Address:				Address to which correspondence should be sent:					
Contact Numbers:	Office		Residence		Mobile		Fax		
<b>2. Qualifications</b>									
<b>2.1 ACADEMIC: (Give full details in chronological order)</b>									
From Month/Year	To Month/Year	University/ Institute (Name, Place)		Certificates, Diploma, Degree obtained with Grade/ Class etc.		Main field(s) or Subject(s) of study		<u>Points</u> (Office Use)	
<b>2.2 PROFESSIONAL: (Give full details in chronological order)</b>									
From Month/Year	To Month/Year	Professional Body			Professional Qualification			<u>Points</u> (Office Use)	

**3. Employment Record: *Starting with your present post, list in reverse order of positions held***

**3.1 PRESENT EMPLOYMENT:**

Period (Month/Year)		Title of your post	Department	ATI
From	To			

**3.2 PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (*if Other than ATI*)**

Period (Month/Year)		Title of your post	Name and Address of the employer
From	To		

**4. Relevant Training Programmes Undergone**

Year	Duration of the Training Programme	Title of the Training Programme	Trainer Institute	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)

**5. Academic Management Activities (HoD, Syndicate, Academic Board etc.)**

Year	Description	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)

**6. Experience**

**TEACHING:**

Period (Month/Year)		Description	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)
From	To		

<b>7. Extra Curricular Activities (<i>organization of/ active contribution to, activities</i>)</b>		
Year	Description	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)
<b>8. Performance: Work load, Evaluation of students, results etc.* (for the last two years)</b>		
Year	Description	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)
<b>9. Interaction with private sector employers (e.g. industry, firms, chambers of commerce)</b>		
Year	Description	<u>Points</u> (For Office Use)
<b>10. Score of Other English Professional Exams * Please attach a copy of results sheet</b>		
IELTS	TOFEL	Other (Please Specify)

**Part B**

<b>11. Degree to be Registered for</b>	
Proposed Field of Study:	
Are you Already Offered Placement for a Master Degree:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, Please give the following details * <i>Please attach a copy of the placement letter</i>	
Name of the University/Institution:	Faculty Department:
Title of the Degree Programmes:	
Expected date of commencement:	
Registration and other fees of the intended program:	
<b>12. Declaration</b>	
I certify that all information in this application to be complete and correct to the best of my knowledge	
..... Signature of the Applicant	..... Date

**Part C**

**13. Recommendations**

I confirm that I have read the application. The *field of study/Degree programme for which an offer for placement has been received* is relevant to the Department.

The application is recommended and the applicant can be released for the entire period of the Degree programme applied for.

Official Stamp

.....

Signature of Head of Department

.....

Date

SLIATE selection committee has evaluated the applications from ATIs using the guidelines provided by AHEAD and decided to *nominate the applicant*.

This applicant can be released for the entire period of the degree programme applied for.

Official Stamp

.....

Signature of the Director General/ SLIATE

.....

Date

## Annex 2 - Key Steps – Masters Degree Scholarships

