

Calling Applications for the Research Training Collaboration (Joint PhD programme) between University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University), Australia - 2023

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) an Australian higher education institution ranked 140 in the world (QS world ranking 2023) has partnered with University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to train junior academics of Sri Lankan Universities through a joint PhD program.

RMIT University has highly successful joint PhD programs which commenced in 2018, with currently 32 candidates in progress with 4 successful PhD completions. Joint PhD programs were established in partnership with four academic institutions in Sri Lanka:

- University of Peradeniya (PDN)
- University of Moratuwa (MRT)
- University of Ruhuna (RUH)
- University of Sri Jayewardenepura (SJP)

UGC, Sri Lanka, wish to enhance the research capacity of the academia by offering PhD scholarships to increase the number of academics with doctoral qualifications. The mutually beneficial partnership will enhance global outreach of RMIT and enhance the research culture of the Sri Lankan institutions.

Accordingly, applications are now open, inviting Sri Lankan academics to apply for up to 10 PhD scholarship positions.

The applicant shall be a permanent member of the academic staff of a Higher Educational Institution/ Higher Educational Institute under the purview of the University Grants Commission who are willing to commence their postgraduate studies (PhD) and entitled for paid study leave for the purpose of higher studies.

- Successful candidates will be based in Sri Lanka for 2-2.5 years and spend up to 12 months at RMIT in Melbourne,
- Successful candidates will co-enroll into one (01) Sri Lankan university given below and RMIT University:
 - University of Peradeniya (UoP),
 - University of Moratuwa (UoM),
 - University of Ruhuna (UoR), and
 - University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP).
- Successful candidates will be co-supervised by Sri Lankan university academics from above four (04) universities and RMIT University academics.

Successful candidates' scholarships will comprise:

- RMIT tuition fee scholarship for up to a maximum of 3.5 years, approximate value AU\$80,000
- RMIT stipend (living allowance) for up to 12 months while in Melbourne, approximate value AU\$35,000

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Bachelor's degree requiring at least four (4) years of full-time study in a relevant discipline awarded with honours. Including a research component comprised of a thesis, other research projects or research methodology subjects of at least 25% of a full-time academic year.
- The applicant must have achieved at least a distinction average in the final year; or
- Sri Lankan 1st class honours or 2nd class upper division, or
- Master's degree that includes a research component comprised of at least 25% of a full-time academic year with an overall distinction average or a master's degree without a research component with at least a high distinction average,
- Proof of English proficiency will be required. Refer to RMIT's website for details.
- Applicants are encouraged to check the published projects on RMIT website (<https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/research-degrees/find-a-project>) and align their applications to these areas.
- Applicants can also propose their own research areas of interest and RMIT coordinators will attempt to identify academic supervisors with similar interests where possible.

Applicants should follow the Guidelines for UGC Postgraduate Grant Schemes (<https://www.ugc.ac.lk/downloads/dric/PG%20research%20grants/GUIDELINES.pdf>) and submit their duly filled application along with the Project Proposal to the Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, No 20, and Ward Place, Colombo 07 through proper Channel. Applicants are requested to email said documents to dric@ugc.ac.lk in advance.

Closing date of application is **27th September 2023**. Please contact UGC via dric@ugc.ac.lk for any clarification.

Senior Professor Chandana P. Udawatte

Vice Chairman/UGC

