



## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHMENTS CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 08 /2021

No. 20, Ward Place  
Colombo 07

April 28, 2021

Vice Chancellors of Universities  
Rectors of Campuses  
Directors of Institutes

### IDENTIFYING PROFESSORS APPOINTED BY ADVERTISEMENT/PROMOTION

Your attention is invited to the Establishments Circular Letter No. 07/2019 of 08.11.2019 on the above subject and Section 18:10 of the Chapter III of the Establishments Code of the UGC and Higher Educational Institutions on appointment to Chairs.

2. The Commission at its 1038<sup>th</sup> and 1052<sup>nd</sup> meetings held on 10.09.2020 and 08.04.2021, respectively, arrived at the following decisions;

- (a) Taking into consideration that the title of University Professor is given to distinguished and exceptional individuals, who are internationally recognized experts **in their field** and are qualified to lecture and/or conduct research in a particular subject,

to identify professors (Associate Professors/ Professors/ Senior Professors) appointed by merit promotion, by the name of the discipline/branch of a discipline they are specialized, along with the name of the Department of Study that they are attached to. *For example, Professor in Economics in the Department of Economics, Professor in Econometrics in the Department of Economics etc.*

- (b) However, below-mentioned procedure shall be followed to decide the area of specialization to be included in the title of the professorship:

- (i) The specialized area to be included in the title of the professorship shall be initially indicated by the applicant in his/her professorial application.
- (ii) If the requested specialty is in line with his/her academic progression such as the Bachelor's degree, Doctoral degree, major research areas and is the same as the name of the Department of Study s/he is attached to, then there is no ambiguity and the specialty requested may be recommended by the Selection Committee. *For example, Professor in Civil Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.*

Contd./

- (iii) If the requested specialty is in line with his/her academic progression such as the Bachelor's degree, Doctoral degree, major research areas and is the same as an approved unit or major specialist area established in the Department of Study s/he is attached to, then the specialty requested may be recommended by the Selection Committee. *For example, Professor in Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.*
- (iv) In other situations, the majority of his/her teaching subjects at both undergraduate and post-graduate and research publications especially in indexed journals should be in the area of the specialization requested by the applicant. In such situations, the requested specialty should be recommended by the Head of the Department, Senate appointed Panel and the External Subject Experts, and approved by the University Senate. Further, the applicant should have been a nationally/internationally recognized expert in the requested field.
- (c) The Cadre Chairs (Professors/Senior Professors appointed by advertisement) of all the Faculties shall be identified as Professor **of** (the name of the Department of Study), i.e. *Professor of Physics, Professor of Sinhala etc.*
- (d) Based on the provisions of Section 18:10 of the Chapter III of the Establishments Code of the UGC and Higher Educational Institutions, on appointment to Chairs:

As the academic development of any department of study largely depends on the person appointed to the Cadre Chair of that department, it should not be filled as a matter of course. Thus, the Cadre Chair of a department should be filled only if a person who is academically/professionally qualified, sufficiently senior in experience and service, and who is qualified in all respects is available for selection.

3. Provisions of this Circular will be effective from 03.05.2021 and in case of merit promotions to Professorial posts, the provisions of this circular are applicable only for the applications received on or after the effective date of this circular. Therefore, although the Establishments Circular Letter No. 07/2019 of 08.11.2019 will be repealed from the effective date of this circular, provisions of that circular could be applicable for the applications received for merit promotions to the Associate Professor/Professor posts before the effective date of this circular.

4. Please take action accordingly, and bring this to the notice of the academic staff concerned.



**Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge**  
Chairman

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