

## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 01/2023

No. 20, Ward Place,  
Colombo 07.  
25/01/2023

Vice Chancellors of Universities  
Rectors of Campuses  
Directors of Institutes

### **Use of Designators and Qualifiers in Naming SLQF Level 5 & 6 Qualifications**

According to the current practice in the Sri Lankan University system, the use of a Designator for a qualification is largely a faculty-specific. A qualification is further described by a Qualifier which indicates the area of specialization within the broad field of study. This circular is meant to set out some basic principles to be followed when determining the most appropriate designator and qualifier to be used for SLQF Level 5 and 6 qualifications.

#### **Guidelines on Designators**

Since a faculty is a division within a university comprising one field of study, or a number of related fields, all degree programmes offered by that faculty should be associated designators with justifications. For example, a Faculty of Management may use Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce or Bachelor of Science.

Each subject-based Standing Committee of the UGC will list the designators that are acceptable to it, and that permitted list will be displayed on the UGC website. It is possible to have the same designator coming under the purview of different Standing Committees. For example, the designator "Science" is currently used in degree programmes that fall under the purview of six UGC Standing Committees:

- i. Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences
- ii. Engineering & Architecture
- iii. Computing
- iv. Sciences
- v. Allied Health Sciences
- vi. Management Studies

If a Faculty intends to propose a new degree programme of SLQF Level 5 or 6, leading to a qualification that has a designator that is not listed by the relevant subject-based UGC Standing Committee, it should obtain the prior approval from the UGC, before submission of the full application for approval of a new degree programme.

### **Guidelines on Qualifiers:**

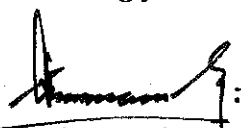
The area of specialization denoted by a qualifier should be included in a Subject Benchmark Statement (SBS) published by the QAC of the UGC. In the absence of a Subject Benchmark published by the QAC, a SBS published by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), UK, can be considered.

If a university plans to offer a new qualification of SLQF Levels 5 or 6 with a qualifier that is not covered by a SBS, the university should obtain the prior approval of the UGC.

### **General Guidelines**

In case a faculty that is associated with one Standing Committee seeks approval from the UGC to offer a degree program in a particular subject area or a discipline that is related to or has an overlap with study programmes coming under the purview of another Standing Committee, then the concurrence of both the Standing Committees of the UGC is necessary to move the application forward.

The provisions of this Circular is effective from 25.01.2023. Please take necessary action accordingly.



**Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge**  
**Chairman**

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