

## **Bachelor of Science Honours Degree By-Law No. 51 - 2023**

### **University of Ruhuna**

By-Law made by the Council of the University of Ruhuna, on 01.11.2021 under section 135 of Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, and amendments thereof.

#### **BY - LAW**

This By-Law may be cited as the “Bachelor of Science Honours Degree Programmes By-Law No. 51 of 2023 of the University of Ruhuna” and shall come into effect on 01.11.2021. The Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany, Bachelor of Science Honours in Chemistry, Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science, Bachelor of Science Honours in Mathematics, Bachelor of Science Honours in Physics, Bachelor of Science Honours in Zoology shall be offered under this By-Law.

### **1. General Requirements for Awarding the Degree**

1.1 The Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours, hereafter referred to as “BScHons”, shall be awarded by the University of Ruhuna, hereafter referred to as “the University”, to a student who:

- a) has been admitted to the University as a student under Section 135 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 and amendments thereof, and
- b) has been duly registered at the University, during the period of study prescribed by this By-Law, and
- c) has completed the courses of study to the satisfaction of the Senate, as prescribed by this By-Law and Regulations and Rules made thereunder, and
- d) has passed examinations as prescribed by this By-Law and Regulations and Rules made thereunder, and
- e) has fulfilled the other requirements as stated in the section 8 of this by-law, and
- f) has paid such fees as prescribed by the University for his/her case by this By-Law and the Regulations and Rules of the University, and
- g) has fulfilled all the above requirements within eight academic years from the date of entry to the University, and it shall be within the power of the Senate to declare for some specified reason(s) that a student is eligible for the award of the Degree at a subsequent occasion, and
- h) has no on-going disciplinary inquiry conducted by the University, and
- i) has no on-going inquiry on examination offences conducted by the University.

1.2 The abbreviation of the name of the Degrees shall be BScHons (Bot), BScHons (Chem), BScHons (Math), BScHons (Comp Sc), BScHons (Phys), and BScHons (Zoo).

## **2. Eligibility for Registration**

- 2.1 A student selected for admission to the BScHons Degree programs (Section 1.2) in the Faculty of Science
- a) must have satisfied the general university admission requirements for Bachelor of Science Honours Degree programs of the Faculty of Science laid down by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka, according to the stipulated University Admission Criteria, and
  - b) must have satisfied the Selection Criteria for the BScHons degree programmes as described in the Regulations under this By-Law.

## **3. Registration for a Degree Programme/Course Units**

- 3.1 A student selected for admission shall register to follow the Degree Programme as prescribed by the Senate.
- 3.2 Registration for semesters of the Degree programme shall be determined in accordance with the Regulations laid down by the Senate.
- 3.3 The Selection Criteria for each subject of specialization in BScHons Degree programmes shall be determined as prescribed by the Regulations approved under this By-Law.
- 3.4 Students shall register for all required course units for each semester as prescribed by the faculty. Students who fail to register for any course module shall receive a grade E\*. Such a student shall register for those course units in the subsequent immediate attempt and shall be considered as a repeat student unless he/she has been given an academic exemption by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 3.5 A student admitted to the Degree Programme shall not be permitted to concurrent registration for any other full-time course of study.

## **4. Programmes of Study**

- 4.1 The Programme of study leading to the Degree of BScHons shall be a full-time course of eight academic semesters over a duration of four academic years.
- 4.2 Each academic year shall consist of two semesters.
- 4.3 During the four academic years of the Degree Programme, a student shall complete a minimum of 120 credits to be eligible for the Degree.
- 4.4 The programme of study shall be conducted in the medium of English.

- 4.5 During the first two years of the BSCHons degree programmes (Level I & Level II), a student shall follow three main subjects offered under one of the several subject streams defined by the faculty. During the final two years (Level III & Level IV) a minimum of 52 credits shall be followed under the subject of specialization as prescribed by the Faculty.
- 4.6 The relevant Course Units and their syllabi shall be approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 4.7 The available Course Units shall be announced by the Faculty at the commencement of an academic year or a semester.

## **5. Evaluation and Grading**

- 5.1 To be eligible to sit for the end-semester examination of each course unit, a student should maintain a minimum attendance of 80%. Under special circumstances, an appropriate percentage of attendance shall be decided by the Faculty Board.
- 5.2 A student who does not fulfil this requirement shall be considered as a repeat student in the next attempt unless he/she has been given an academic concession by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 5.3 The mode of evaluation and examination criteria of each course unit are specified in the approved course structure and shall be prescribed by Regulations of this By-Law made by the Senate.
- 5.4 Evaluation of a Course unit shall consist of one or more of the following assessment components (in formative and summative assessments) as decided by each Department of the Faculty of Science and the method of evaluation shall be announced at the commencement of each course unit:
  - a) theory examinations
  - b) practical examinations
  - c) oral examinations (viva-voce)
  - d) continuous assessments
  - e) assignments
  - f) reports
  - g) presentations
  - h) class tests

- 5.5 Final examinations for each course unit of the BScHons degree programme shall be conducted at the end of each semester or at the end of each course unit or at any other time within the academic year as decided by each Department subjected to the approval of the Faculty Board.
- 5.6 Research Project evaluation shall be based on a viva – voce examination and the dissertation written on an independent research work carried out by the student.
- 5.7 The methods of assessment and distribution of weightage among assessment components of each Course Unit as specified in the course structure shall be informed at the beginning of each course unit.
- 5.8 The final evaluation of a course unit shall be graded and be assigned a Grade Point Value (GPV) as follows based on the level of overall performance.

Marks (%)	Grade	GPV
85- 100	A+	4.0
70-84	A	4.0
65-69	A-	3.7
60-64	B+	3.3
55-59	B	3.0
50-54	B-	2.7
45-49	C+	2.3
40-44	C	2.0
35-39	C-	1.7
30-34	D+	1.3
25-29	D	1.0
0-24	E	0.0

- 5.9 If a student fails to complete a Course Unit, grade of “E\*” shall be given unless an acceptable reason is produced. In the event of accepting the given reason by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, he/she shall be considered as sitting for the first time in a subsequent attempt for that course unit.

The following table lists relevant grades:

Reason	Grade	Subsequent Attempt
Not applied/Absent without accepted reason(s)/ Not Eligible	E*	Repeat
Accepted Medical Certificate	MC	First Time
Non-medical reason acceptable to the Senate	NM	First Time
Results withheld	WH	As decided by the Senate and Council

5.10 A student who obtains a grade 'C' or better for a Course Unit shall be considered to have passed in that Course Unit.

5.11 A student who obtains a grade 'C' or lower in a particular Course Unit may be able to improve its grade when the relevant examination shall be conducted by the department. The highest grade a student can obtain in a repeat attempt shall be 'C'. In the event a student obtains a lower grade in a repeat attempt, he/she shall be entitled to the previous best grade.

**5.12 Verification of Marks**

Students shall be given an opportunity for the verification of marks after releasing results of course units at each semester by paying a fee. The verification shall be conducted according to the guidelines given by the UGC Commission Circular No 978 and the final recommendation shall be submitted to the approval of the Senate.

**6. Requirements for Graduation**

6.1 The Grade Point Average (GPA) shall be calculated as described below at the completion of the degree programme to determine the overall performance of a student.

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_i C_i GPV_i}{\sum_i C_i}$$

where  $C_i$  and  $GPV_i$  are the number of credits and the Grade Point Values of  $i^{th}$  Course Unit, respectively.

$$\left( GPA = \frac{\sum (\text{Grade Point Value for a course unit}) \times (\text{Number of credits of that course unit})}{(\text{Total number of credits})} \right)$$

6.2 A student shall be eligible for the award of the BScHons Degree if he/she has obtained,

- a) an overall minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 for all course units followed throughout the four academic years of the degree programme, and
- b) from the Course Units of subject of specialization of the BScHons Degree
  - (i) a minimum of 52 credits,
  - (ii) grade C or better from theory aggregating to a minimum of 60% credits,
  - (iii) grade C- or better in all practical course units,
  - (iv) grade C or better for the research project, and
  - (v) Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 or more for Honours Degree Course Units.

- 6.3 A candidate has to fulfill the following in order to release the final results,
- (i) Pass in English Proficiency Level I, Level II and Level III (ENG1b10, ENG2b10, and ENG3b10) Examinations.
  - (ii) Pass in Course Unit MAT1142: Mathematics for Biology". This requirement is applicable only for Biological Science candidates.
  - (iii) Pass the examination of Computer Literacy Course (ICT1b13). This requirement is applicable only for students who do not follow computer science as a subject.
  - (iv) Complete the course unit FSC3252: Scientific Writing and Communication with C- or better.

## **7. Award of the Degree with a Class**

- (i). A student who has fulfilled all the stipulated conditions in Section 6 shall be awarded a Class, if he/she fulfills the following additional requirements within four academic years from the date of the first registration (it shall be within the power of the Senate to declare for some specified reason that a student is eligible for the award of the Class at a subsequent occasion on the recommendation of the faculty board)
  - ii). He/she should be securing grades of C or better aggregating to a minimum of 48 credits from the course units of the subject of specialization of the BScHons Degree programme.
1. First Class
- (a) A minimum GPA of 3.70 for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization, and
  - (b) A minimum GPA of 3.70 for all course units of the subject of specialization (from Level I to Level IV), and
  - (c) Grades of A or better for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization aggregating to a minimum of 30 credits.
2. Second Class (Upper Division)
- (a) A minimum GPA of 3.30 for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization, and
  - (b) A minimum GPA of 3.30 for all course units of the subject of specialization (from Level I to Level IV), and
  - (c) Grades of A- or better for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization aggregating to a minimum of 24 credits.

3. Second Class (Lower Division)

- (a) A minimum GPA of 3.00 for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization, and
- (b) A minimum GPA of 3.00 for all course units of the subject of specialization (from Level I to Level IV).

**8. Effective Date of the Degree**

- 8.1 The effective date of the degree of a student shall be the date following the last day of the semester examinations relevant to the subject of specialization conducted by the Faculty, if the student submits the research thesis/dissertation for the evaluation within one month from the last day of the semester examinations.
- 8.2 If the student takes more than one month from the last day of the semester examinations to submit the research thesis/dissertation for the evaluation, the effective date of the degree of a student shall be the date following the date of the submission of the research thesis/dissertation by the student.
- 8.3 In case a student has an ongoing inquiry for an examination or disciplinary offenses conducted against him/her by the University, results of the relevant examination/s shall not be released until the inquiry is completed. In such situations, the effective date of the degree shall be determined by the Senate.

**9. Reverting to BSc Degree**

- 9.1 A student reading for a BScHons Degree may request for the award of the Bachelor of Science Degree foregoing the Honours Degree. This request shall be made at any time after completion of the third academic year subjected to fulfilment of the requirement of BSc Degree. The student shall be deemed to have passed the Bachelor of Science Degree Examination in accordance with graduation requirements of the Bachelor of Science Degree By-Law and its Regulations.

**9.1.1** The student shall satisfy following conditions,

- (i) The results of the Bachelor of Science Degree shall be determined solely on the basis of course units he/she followed in the first three academic years.
- (ii) The student shall have completed the minimum 24 credit requirement of the course units of each of the three subjects of the subject stream followed within the first three academic years. Any deficiency to complete the 90-credit requirement of the BSc degree shall be earned from among the course units of the Level III of the Honours degree programme.

- (iii) The student shall be eligible for an award of a Class for the Bachelor of Science Degree if he/she has completed all the requirements within the first three academic years from the date of first registration in accordance with the Bachelor of Science Degree By-Law/Regulations.

**9.2** A student can also request to revert to BSc Degree within 14 days after the release of the final results of the Honours Degree Program at the end of Level IV, if the student shall have completed the requirements stated under section 9.1.1 above. However, such a student shall fall into the category of a repeat student under BSc Degree By-Laws/Regulations and shall not receive a Class for the BSc Degree even he/she had earned a high GPA.

## **10. Revision of By-Law/Rules and Regulations**

- 10.1 This By-Law may be revised or amended when necessary.
- 10.2 Rules and regulations made under this By-Law may be amended or approved by the Senate independently of the By-Law.
- 10.3 All other common rules and regulations applicable to universities in Sri Lanka and to the University of Ruhuna are also applicable to students registered for these programmes.

## **11. General Conditions**

This By-Law shall be effective from the batch of students who admitted to the academic year 2020/2021.

## **12. Interpretations**

- 12.1 In this By-Law unless the context otherwise requires
- “University” means the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka as established by Gazette Notification no.281/07 dated 24.1.1984.
- “Council” means the Council of the University of Ruhuna, constituted by University Act No.16 of 1978 and amendments thereof.
- “Senate” means the Senate of the University of Ruhuna, constituted by University Act No.16 of 1978 and amendments thereof.
- “Faculty” means the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.
- “Faculty Board” means the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.
- “Dean” means the Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.
- 12.2 Any question regarding the interpretation of this by-law shall be referred to the Council whose decisions thereon shall be final and conclusive.