

Regulation No: 01.51-2023 made under By Law 51 - 2023

Bachelor of Science Honours Degree University of Ruhuna

These Regulations may be cited as the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, Regulations No. 01.51-2023 for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degrees offered under the By-Law No. 51-2023, which includes Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany, Bachelor of Science Honours in Chemistry, Bachelor of Science Honours in Mathematics, Bachelor of Science Honours in Physics, Bachelor of Science Honours in Zoology and shall come into effect on 01.11.2021.

1. Admission Requirements

- 1.1 All applicants for admission to Bachelor's Degree programmes in the Faculty of Science must satisfy the general university admission requirements for the faculties of science as laid down by the University Grants Commission.
- 1.2 Applicants with equivalent qualifications gained from foreign universities and transfer students referred to by the University Grants Commission for admission to this faculty shall be admitted only with the approval of the Faculty Board.

2. Registration for the Degree programme

Students admitted to the faculty register as full-time students and are required to maintain their registration during the total period of study in the faculty.

3. Registration for Semesters and 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 a Degree programme shall be done in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Senate.
- 3.3 Students shall register for all required course units for each semester prescribed by the faculty. A student who fails to register for any course unit shall be considered as a repeat student unless he/she has been given an academic exemption by the Senate.
- 3.4 A candidate admitted to a Degree Programme shall not be permitted to concurrent registration for any other full-time course of study.

4. Selection criteria and Eligibility for Registration for Honours Degrees

At the beginning of semester II of Level II of the BSc degree programme, each department of study shall decide and announce the criteria and number of students to be enrolled into the BScHons Degree Programme under the department.

4.1 Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria for the BScHons degree programmes shall be as follows:

- a) A student shall be eligible to apply at the completion of the Level II of Bachelor of Science Degree Programme, if he/she has
- (i) followed course units aggregating to a minimum of 60 credits,
 - (ii) obtained grades of C or better from theory aggregating to a minimum of 60% credits from Core Course Units (CCUs) of each subject,
 - (iii) obtained grades of C or better in all practical course units of the subject to be specialized,
 - (iv) obtained grades of C- or better in all other practical course units,
 - (v) obtained grades of C or better for
 - (a) English proficiency Level I (ENG1b10),
 - (b) Mathematics for Biology (MAT1142) by biological science students,
 - (c) Computer Literacy Course (ICT1b13) by students who 'do not follow computer science as a subject,
 - (vi) earned a GPA of 2.00 or more from all the course units followed, and
 - (vii) earned a GPA of 3.00 or more from the subject to be specialized (Note: For BScHons in Mathematics, students must fulfill this requirement for two subjects: Mathematics and Applied or Industrial Mathematics).

GPA shall be calculated as follows and reported to the second decimal point.

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

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

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

- b) The selection of a student shall be determined by the respective department of study in an interview and shall be based on the following:
- (i) Academic performances of the student in the selected subject of specialization at examinations of Levels I and II, and
 - (ii) performance of the student in the other two subjects offered at the examinations referred to (a) above.
- c) The decision of the Dean on the selection shall be final and conclusive, and subjected to the approval of the faculty board.

4.2 Eligibility for Registration for Honours Degrees

A student selected for admission to the BScHons Degree programmes in the Faculty of Science

- a) must have satisfied the general university admission requirements for Bachelor of Science Honours Degree programmes 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 prescribed in section 4.1.

5. Course Structure

- 5.1** The Programme of study leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours shall be a full-time course, consisting of eight academic semesters organized over a duration of four academic years.
- 5.2** The official academic calendar of dates approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board shall be announced prior to the commencement of each academic year.
- 5.3** The curriculum shall be announced by the faculty at the commencement of the degree programme.
- 5.4** Each course unit shall be assigned a credit value that indicates the student's workload associated with class attendance and preparation.
- 5.5** There shall be a coordinator for each course unit appointed by the respective Head of the Department/the Dean of the Faculty. The course module coordinator shall prepare the respective course module including details of distribution of theory, practical and field works, notional hours, teaching-learning methods, and assessment methods as per the format approved by the faculty.
- 5.6** Course Structure of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree programmes align with SLQF Level 6.
 - 5.6.1** Curriculum under each subject consists of Core Course Units and Optional Course Units. Theory Course Units consist of lectures, assignments, and tutorials. Practical Course Units are either laboratory based or field-based studies of a particular subject. In addition, there are Course Units which consist of project work and Combined Course Units consist of both theory and practical components.
 - 5.6.2** In addition to the Course Units under subject areas, several other Course Units from different disciplines are also available as Optional Course Units. The prefixes of such Course Units begin with FSC.
 - 5.6.3** For a degree programme, each student shall select Course Units from the relevant stream.

5.6.4 Course Units selection

shall complete course units of 120 credits with a minimum of 52 credits of course units from the subject of specialization during Level III and Level IV of the BSc Honours degree programme subjected to the approval of the department of his/her subject of specialization.

Furthermore, a special degree student shall carry out a research project, shall acquire additional skills (seminar, essay etc.) and may undergo practical/industrial training.

6. Evaluation

The Bachelor of Science Honours Degree consists of examinations at the end of each semester or at the end of course unit for the theory and practical course units. A candidate shall be eligible for the conferment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree after the successful completion of all requirements (as specified in the Section 4) within a maximum period of eight academic years from the date of entry to the University of Ruhuna.

6.1 Evaluation Criteria for course units of BSc degree program

The following evaluation criteria is used for all course units offered under the BSc Honours degree subjected to the By-Laws of the Faculty of Science.

6.1.1 Evaluation of Theory/Practical course units

- a) The evaluation criteria for all theory/practical course units offered by each department of the faculty shall have any of the following structures.
- b) Students shall be assessed by the continuous assessments and the end semester examination.
- c) All Students shall sit for the final examination to earn a grade. Otherwise, grade E* shall be given. A student must earn 30% from the end semester examination to earn a grade of C or better for the course unit. Otherwise, he/she shall earn only a maximum grade of C-.

6.1.2. Continuous assessments

- a) Students shall attend all continuous assessments offered as per course unit during the relevant semester/year. The number of continuous assessments to be conducted, the modes of assessment, and the proportion of the marks credited to the final grade shall be announced at the beginning of the course unit.
- b) A student shall complete the continuous assessment before he/she sits for the final examination of that course unit.
- c) In case a student is absent for the continuous assessment and has not sat for the end semester examination shall attend to the following.
 - i) The student shall make a written request to Head of the relevant department through Dean of the Faculty of Science to conduct a makeup test within the semester by giving acceptable reason (medical, sports or other faculty/university competition, etc.) within seven days after the continuous assessment is held.
 - ii) Students who sit for makeup test may be able to earn continuous assessment marks like a student who sits at the first time without any penalty.

- d) A student who is absent for both continuous assessment and the end semester examination of a course unit on **accepted medical grounds** shall sit for continuous assessment and the relevant end-semester examination as a first timer during the following academic year when assessment/examination are conducted for the regular batch of immediate junior students.
- e) Marks of the continuous assessments shall be carried forward if a student has to re-sit for the end semester examination of a course unit.
- f) Continuous assessments of a particular course unit shall be conducted, and the marks shall be announced before the student sits for the end-semester examination of that course unit.

6.1.3 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.

6.2. Grades allocated for Course Units

A grade will be awarded for the overall performance in each Course Unit as in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3: Grade and Grade Point Value (GPV) for corresponding marks.

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

Table 4: Grades given for the absence for examination.

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

6.3. Pass in a Course Unit

6.3.1 General criteria for all course units:

1. A candidate who obtains grade C or better for a course unit shall be considered to have passed in that course unit.
2. If a student fails to complete a course a grade of E will be given unless an acceptable reason is produced. In the event of the given reason is accepted by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, he/she will be considered as a candidate sitting for the first time in a subsequent attempt for that course unit.
3. A student who obtains a C- or lower grade in a particular course unit may re-sit for the examination in respect of that course unit for the purpose of improving the grade within the stipulated period. The highest grade a student can obtain is C, which is in this instance equivalent to GPV 2.00. In the event a student obtains a lower grade, he/she will be entitled to the previous grade. Repeat candidates are not entitled to attend lectures/practical classes in the course unit in which he/she has failed.

6.3.2 Examination Criteria on Mathematical Computing Course Units, IMT1b2β, IMT2b2β, and the Industrial Mathematics Project, IMT3b1β, under Industrial Mathematics subject stream

A student who follows Industrial Mathematics as a subject shall pass all IMT1b2β, IMT2b2β, and IMT3b1β to earn the BSc Honours Degree. These course units consist of learning a mathematical software/programming language in Semester I and carrying out a project work in Semester II.

1. Final mark of each of the above course units shall be calculated as follows:

Method of Evaluation: Throughout Semester I:

(Learning mathematical software/programming language)

(M1) *Practical Exam (Continuous Assessment): Marks out of 100*

Throughout Semester II: (Project Work)

(M2) *Project Report: Marks out of 100*

(M3) *Oral Exam and Presentation: Marks out of 100*

$$\text{Final Mark} = M1 \times 35\% + M2 \times 30\% + M3 \times 35\%$$

2. A student may continue with the project work in Semester II irrespective of the results of the practical examination of the relevant mathematical software/programming language at the end of Semester I in the relevant Level. If a student fails in that practical examination (less than 40 marks), his/her result of that particular course unit shall be withheld until he/she gets 40 marks for the practical examination in the relevant level at a subsequent attempt. The maximum mark a student can obtain for a practical examination is 40 marks if he/she fails the practical examination at the first attempt.
3. A student shall be considered to have passed the project component of the course unit if he/she earns a minimum of 40% of $(M2+M3)/2$ with a minimum 30% for each M2 and M3. If a student fails in the project, he/she can earn only up to a grade of C- in that course unit and he/she shall work on the same project using the same software/programming language and resubmit the project report in the next academic year.

6.4 Verification of Marks

Students are given the opportunity for the verification of marks after releasing results of course units at each semester by paying a fee. Further details of the process of the verification of marks are available at the faculty office. The final recommendation made by the committee appointed for the verification of marks shall be submitted to the approval of the Senate of the University of Ruhuna.

6.5 Subject Certification Requirement:

The minimum number of credits required for a subject to be called a main subject of a degree shall be 24 credits, in a stream of three subjects. A subject to be called as a specialized subject, the minimum requirement shall be 52 credits.

6.6 Requirement for eligibility for examination

To be eligible to sit for the end-semester examination of each course unit, a student must have maintained a minimum attendance of 80% or an appropriate percentage of attendance as decided by the Faculty Board under special circumstances. 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.

In the event if a student fails to maintain at least 40% attendance of the practical course units of Level I of the special degree programme without providing reasons acceptable to the faculty board, he/she shall not be allowed to sit for the examination of that course unit even as a repeat student and hence, he/she must leave the university.

6.6.1 Absence due to illnesses

If a student is unable to attend lectures and/or practical classes due to an illness he/she shall inform the university medical officer within a week. If a student wishes, he/she can get medical assistance from a government or a private doctor. However, the University medical officer shall approve the medical certificates issued by them.

Such medical certificate shall be obtained from following persons:

- (i) University Medical Officer
- (ii) District Medical Officer
- (iii) Certified medical officer
- (iv) Consultant Specialist in the relevant field
- (v) Head of a Government Hospital
- (vi) Medical Superintendent of a Provincial Ayurvedic Government Hospital
- (vii) Ayurvedic Physician registered in the Ayurvedic Medical Council

6.6.2 Absence due to other reasons

If a student is unable to attend lectures and/or practical classes due to a reason other than illness, he/she shall inform the faculty office in writing with acceptable evidence within 14 days.

6.6.3 Illness during Examination Period

If a student is unable to sit for the examinations of a particular semester due to an illness, he/she shall contact the University Medical Officer and inform the faculty office according to the prescribed procedure. The medical certificates obtained from outside medical officers shall be submitted to the faculty office within 14 days (These certificates shall be accepted only with the approval of the university Medical Officer).

7. Award of the Degree

7.1 Minimum requirements for the Completion of the Degree

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 of C or better from theory aggregating to a minimum of 60% credits
 - (iii) grade of C- or better in all practical course units,
 - (iv) grade of C or better for the research project, and
 - (v) Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 or more for Honours Degree Course Units.

GPA shall be calculated as follows:

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

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

$$GPA = \frac{\sum (\text{Grade Point value for a Course Unit}) \times (\text{Number of credits of that Course unit})}{(\text{Total Number of Credits})}$$

7.2 Other requirements for the Completion of the Degree

In addition to the examination Criteria stated under Section 7.1, a student shall fulfill the following to release the final results of the BSc Honours Degree.

- (a) Pass in English Proficiency Level I, Level II, and Level III (ENG1b10, ENG2b10, and ENG3b10) Examinations.
- (b) Pass in Course Unit MAT1142: Mathematics for Biology". This requirement is applicable only for Biological Science candidates.
- (c) Pass the examination of Computer Literacy Course (ICT1b13). This requirement is applicable only for students who do not follow computer science as a subject.
- (d) Pass in course unit (C- or better) FSC3252: Scientific Writing and Communication.

7.3 Award of Classes for Bachelor of Science Honours Degrees

A student who has fulfilled all the stipulated conditions in Sections 7.1 and 7.2 shall be awarded a Class, if he/she has fulfilled the following additional requirements within four academic years from the date of 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) 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.

1. First Class

- (b) A minimum GPA of 3.70 for the Level III and Level IV Course Units of the subject of specialization, and
- (c) A minimum GPA of 3.70 for all course units of the subject of specialization (from Level I to Level IV), and
- (d) 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. Fees levied for the Degree Program

All fees prescribed by the Faculty shall be paid by each student on registration for a degree programme, for renewal of registration, and for registration of examinations, as applicable.

11. Revision Rules and Regulations

- 11.1.** Rules and Regulations may be revised or amended as and when necessary, by the Senate with the approval of the Council.
- 11.2.** All other common Rules and Regulations applicable to the state Universities in Sri Lanka and to the University of Ruhuna are also applicable to students registered for the BScHons Degree Programmes.
- 11.3.** In case of any ambiguity in the rules and regulations, the interpretation of the Faculty Board endorsed by the Senate with the approval of the Council shall be final.

12. General Conditions

This By-Law and Regulations will be effective from the batch of students who admitted to the academic 2020/2021.

13. Interpretations

- a. 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.

- b. Any question regarding the interpretation of this by-law shall be referred to the Council whose decisions thereon shall be final and conclusive.