



OUSL

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

PROSPECTUS

BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

ACADEMIC YEAR

2026/27

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL STUDIES



www.ou.ac.lk

Programme Overview

With flexible focus areas, this degree is designed to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, preparing graduates for impactful careers in diverse fields.

The curriculum is designed according to the subject benchmarks of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and adheres to national standards in social sciences.

Medium of Instruction

English

Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences is a multidisciplinary programme that equips students with essential knowledge in communication, economics, politics, society and culture, fostering a deep understanding of societal dynamics.

Students enrolled in the BA programme can choose from the following areas of focus:

Communication Studies

Communication Studies help you understand the role of human communication in development, from individual to institutional levels. This discipline enables you to analyze how communication processes impact the quality of life within a social system, shaping human freedom and empowering others.

Understanding communication theory allows you to influence system-based reforms in areas such as governance, peace and non-violent communication, agricultural extension, health communication, and political communication. The curriculum fosters a liberating impact on the mind.

Economics and Development Studies

Economics examines how societies, governments, businesses, households, and individuals allocate scarce resources. This discipline features the development of conceptual models to predict responses to policy and market changes, and the use of analytical models to investigate these changes. The study of economics provides knowledge of economic principles and exposes you to specialized branches of economic analysis, enhancing your understanding of development issues from an economic perspective. You will gain insights into critical economic events and become an informed participant in the modern economy.

Politics and International Relations Studies

Politics and International Relations Studies courses enable you to understand the complexities of national, global, and societal politics. This focus area provides conceptual exposure to the science and art of politics, helping you become an astute observer of societies, governments, and political systems worldwide. You will develop political thinking and critical reflection skills. Subjects include politics and governance, political ideologies, gender and politics, cyber politics, politics under globalization, international political economy, conflict, war and peace, political violence, security, world politics, and political theory. This focus is ideal for those interested in studying political processes, institutions, global politics, and politics at the government and societal levels.

Society and Culture Studies

Drawing from Sociology and Social Anthropology, Society and Culture Studies offer a broad range of topics on social institutions and cultural processes. This discipline equips you with the concepts, knowledge, and skills to understand and analyze social issues. Topics include globalization, marriage and family, education, political systems, social movements, religious institutions, identity, social psychology, gender, and development. This area of study is particularly useful for those curious about people, society, and culture, and for those planning a people-oriented career.

Gold Medals

Students who perform well in the BA in Social Sciences are eligible for the following Gold Medals at the end of the programme. These are awarded annually at the University Convocation.

-  Dr. Gamani Corea Gold Medal to the Best Student in Social Sciences
-  Dr. Anura Goonesekera Gold Medal to the Best Student in Mass Communication
-  Professor H. A. de. S. Gunasekera Gold Medal to the Best Student in Economics
-  Professor Gananath Obeyesekere Gold Medal to the Best Student in Sociology

Course Selection

You must select your area of focus at the time of registration. The detailed curriculum is provided in the prospectus. Please review it carefully to choose your focus area.

Making changes to registered courses

After registration you have a specified period to make changes to your registered courses, during which you can add or drop courses by completing a form available from the Assistant Registrar of the Faculty. You can also contact the Department Coordinator or the Regional Director in your area. You must maintain a maximum of 36 credits and a minimum of 9 credits. No changes are allowed after the designated period.

Programme Structure

The BA programme starts at Level 3 and requires a minimum of 3 years to complete. Each academic year is divided into two semesters, with a maximum of 15 credits per semester. A total of 90 credits is needed to complete the programme. Each year, a combination of compulsory and elective courses is offered, along with Continuing Education (CE) courses, which can include up to 10 credits annually. Some CE courses, such as English are compulsory.



SANJAYA AMARATHUNGA

Gold Medallist 2021

Gamani Corea Gold Medal for the Best Student in Social Sciences

I am Sanjaya Amarathunga, a government teacher working in a rural school in Dambulla. In 2021, I was honoured with the Prof. Gamani Corea Gold Medal for the Best Student in Social Sciences. I completed my degree at the Kurunegala Regional Center. After being appointed as a teacher, I pursued higher education opportunities and found a pivotal one by joining the Open University of Sri Lanka. This journey demanded immense commitment and dedication, and the support from the Department of Social Studies and the Kurunegala Regional Centre was invaluable.

The flexible schedule provided by the university enabled me to balance my work and studies effectively. Despite various challenges, the university's effort to ensure timely completion of the study programme was impressive. The Open University of Sri Lanka truly lives up to its name by offering accessible and high-quality higher education.

For me, the Open University became evident as a heaven that gives proper evaluation to one's abilities, help to overcome the challenges and open the way for the seekers of knowledge. That is why even a student from a remote area like me was able to get an excellent result.

I invite you to join this open knowledge space and pursue your dreams.



LAKSHMI DHANAPALA

Double Gold Medallist 2018

Gamani Corea Gold Medal for the Best Student in Social Sciences
Gananath Obeysekera Gold Medal for the Best Student in Sociology

Society is like an intriguing book that becomes more fascinating as one begins to study it. My passion for studying society led me to pursue the BA Degree in Social Sciences at OUSL. After joining OUSL, I was truly delighted with my decision. The unique open distance learning method at OUSL enables students of all age groups and diverse educational backgrounds to study together. The exclusive teaching and learning techniques at OUSL have helped us become independent learners through a well-structured curriculum, an LMS, and day schools. The academic staff in the Department of Social Studies are always willing to assist, offering constructive feedback to improve our studies. The dispersed network of regional educational centers makes the long-distance open learning system successful. As an employed student, I faced no barriers in continuing my higher studies due to the flexibility and guidance provided by OUSL, which allowed me to manage my time effectively.

Consequently, I was able to achieve a first-class in the BA in Social Sciences and win the Gamini Corea Gold Medal for the Best Student in the Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences for the academic year 2017/2018, as well as the Gananath Obeyesekere Gold Medal for Excellence in Sociology in the same academic year. The excellent experience I gained from OUSL motivated me to continue my postgraduate studies there. Additionally, the opportunity to serve as a visiting academic at OUSL greatly enhanced my professional and academic life.

I am forever grateful to my alma mater, OUSL, for shaping my life and elevating it to a higher standard.



DHAMMIKA WASALA

Double Gold Medallist 2019

Gamani Corea Gold Medal for the Best Student in Social Sciences

H. A. De S. Gunasekara Gold Medal for the Best Student in Economics

I am W.M.D.C. Wasala and I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences, majoring in Economics and Development Studies, at the Open University of Sri Lanka, Kurunegala Regional Center. I graduated with an overall GPA of 3.7 and was awarded the Gamini Corea Gold Medal for the best student in Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, as well as the H.A. De S. Gunasekara Gold Medal for the best student in Economics for the academic period of 2016-2019. It was not an achievement that happened overnight; it required months of dedication, hard work, and determination. I chose the right place for this purpose, and within three years, I completed an internal degree. I began my studies at the Open University while juggling the roles of wife, teacher, and student. Balancing these responsibilities was a challenging task. My greatest learning outcome was developing the courage to challenge myself and step out of my comfort zone. Though difficult at first, the results were overwhelmingly positive. The flexible timetable, day schools, peer discussions, and learning materials provided by the university greatly aided me in achieving this goal.

The realization of my dream to receive these awards was made possible by the unwavering motivation and support I received from my family and the Open University of Sri Lanka, Kurunegala Regional Center. Special thanks go to the coordinators and all the lecturers who provided me with tremendous encouragement throughout my studies. I believe that while hard work is crucial, it should not come at the expense of the relationships we build. As a Social Science student, I have learned to excel academically while maintaining a balanced personal life.

Entry Requirements

Candidates should meet one of the following criteria:

- A minimum of three passes at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) examination in any stream, or
- A minimum of 30 credits at SLQF Level 2 or above from any programme offered by a Higher Education Institution approved by the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka, or
- Qualification or accredited work experience equivalent to NVQ Level 4, or
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate.

Course Fee Structure

Registration Fee:

- Local students: Rs. 500.00
- Foreign students: USD 200

Facility Fee: Rs. 2500.00

Library Facility Fee: Rs. 100.00

Tuition Fee Per Credit:

- Local students: Rs. 1890.00
- From developed countries: USD 50
- From developing countries: USD 25

Refundable Deposit for Foreign Students: USD 500

Payment Installments:

Tuition fees can be paid in two installments:

- 1st installment: 60%
- 2nd installment: 40%



For further details, please contact:

Communication Studies Stream

Professor G.T. Madhubhashini Hewage

Professor in Communication, Department of Social Studies

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Economics and Development Studies Stream

Dr. Achintha Koswatta

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Politics and International Relations Studies Stream

Dr. Sandunika Hasangani

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Society and Culture Studies Stream

Dr. Kanchana Sujananie Bulumulle

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B.A. in Social Sciences Level 3 (First Year Coordinator)

Ms. Madhuwanthi Godagampala

Lecturer in Economics, Department of Social Studies

Detailed Curriculum: BA in Social Sciences

Level 03			
Communication Studies	Economics and Development Studies	Politics and International Relations	Society and Culture Studies
Semester 1			
DSU3521 Introduction to Communication Theory and Practice			
DSU3531 Principles of Economics I			
DSU3551 Understanding Society and Culture			
Semester 2			
DSU3522	DSU3532	DSU3541	DSU3532
Communication and Media Ethics	Principles of Economics 2	Introduction to International Politics	Principles of Economics II
DSU3542	DSU3542	DSU3542	DSU3542
Politics and Governance: An Introduction	Politics and Governance: An Introduction	Politics and Governance: An Introduction	Politics and Governance: An Introduction
DSU3552	DSU3552	DSU3552	DSU3552
Understanding Sri Lankan Society and Culture	Understanding Sri Lankan Society and Culture	Understanding Sri Lankan Society and Culture	Understanding Sri Lankan Society and Culture
CE Courses			
LTE34BE- Elementary Level-EAP			
LTE34BI-Intermediate Level-EAP			
LTE34BA-Advanced Level-EAP			
DSE3215: Social Harmony			

Level 4 Semester 1			
CO Stream	ED Stream	PO Stream	SO Stream
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
DSU4621 Participatory Communication for Development	DSU4631 Economy of Sri Lanka	DSU4641 Living Political Ideas	DSU4352 Social Psychology
DSU4323 Communication in Disaster Mitigation	DSU4323 Communication in Disaster Mitigation (Compulsory Elective from CO)	DSU4333 Development Economics	DSU4353 Kinship, Family and Marriage
Choose one from below	DSU4333 Development Economics	Choose one from below	DSU4355 Religion, Society and Culture
DSU4343 Politics of Sri Lanka	Choose one from below	DSU4343 Politics of Sri Lanka	DSU4323 Communication in Disaster Mitigation (Compulsory Elective from CO)
DSU4345 Political Participation, Representation and Governance	DSU4343 Politics of Sri Lanka	DSU4345 Political Participation, Representation and Governance	Choose one from below
Choose one from below	DSU4345 Political Participation, Representation and Governance	Choose one from below	DSU4343 Politics of Sri Lanka
DSU4352 Social Psychology		DSU4323 Communication in Disaster Mitigation	DSU4345 Political Participation, Representation and Governance
DSU4353 Kinship, Family and Marriage		DSU4353 Kinship, Family & Marriage	
CE Courses			
DSE4207-Non-Violent Communication			

Level 4 Semester 2			
CO stream	ED Stream	PO Stream	SO Stream
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
DSU4622 Environmental Communication	DSU4332 Health Economics	DSU4642 Politics of South Asia	DSU4652 Development Theory and Practice
DSU4324 Advertising and Promotion	DSU4334 International Economics	DSU4334 International Economics	DSU4356 Politics and Social Movements
DSU4356 Politics and Social Movements	DSU4336 Public Finance	DSU4356 Politics and Social Movements	Choose one from below
Choose one from below	DSU4652 Development Theory & Practice	Choose one from below	DSU4334 International Economics
DSU4344 International Organizations and Transnational Governance		DSU4344 International Organizations and Transnational Governance	DSU4344 International Organizations and Transnational Governance
DSU4346 Public Policy and Administration		DSU4346 Public Policy and Administration	Choose one from below
			DSU4332 Health Economics
			DSU4346 Public Policy and Administration
DSE5301-Statistics for Social Sciences			

Level 5 Semester 1			
CO Stream	ED Stream	PO Stream	SO Stream
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
DSU5651 Social Science Research Methods	DSU5651 Social Science Research Methods	DSU5651 Social Science Research Methods	DSU5651 Social Science Research Methods
DSU5323 Corporate Communication and Image Building	DSU5331 Global Political Economy	DSU5341 Gender Politics	DSU5353 Gender and Social Inquiry
Choose one from below	Choose one from below	DSU5345 State, Society and Citizens	Choose one from below
DSU5327 Media Democracy	DSU5335 Resource Economics	Choose one from below	DSU5355 Education and Social Mobility
DSU5321 Communication Research	DSU5337 Principles of Econometrics	DSU5331 Global Political Economy	DSU5357 Globalization, Migration and Social Change
Choose one from below	Choose one from below	DSU5355 Education and Social Mobility	Choose one from below
DSU5331 Global Political Economy	DSU5323 Corporate Communication and Image Building	DSU5357 Globalization, Migration and Social Change	DSU5345 State, Society and Citizens
DSU5355 Education and Social Mobility	DSU5345 State, Society and Citizens		DSU5323 Corporate Communication and Image Building
DSU5357 Globalization, Migration and Social Change			

Level 5 Semester 2			
CO Stream	ED Stream	PO Stream	SO Stream
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
DSU5324 Cross Cultural Communication	DSU5344 Sri Lanka in a Globalized World	DSU5342 Conflict Resolution and Peace Building	DSU5352 Social Theory
DSU5356 Ethnicity in Everyday Life	DSU5338 Banking and Financial Systems	DSU5356 Ethnicity in Everyday Life	Choose one from below
Choose one from below	Choose one from below	Choose one from below	DSU5344 Sri Lanka in a Globalized World
DSU5322 Media Occupations & Professions	DSU5332 Agricultural Economics	DSU5336 Urban Economics	DSU5346 Cyber Politics and the State
DSU5326 Media Organizations and Management	DSU5336 Urban Economics	DSU5322 Media Occupations & Professions	Choose one from below
Choose one from below	Choose one from below	Choose one from below	DSU5336 Urban Economics
DSU5344 Sri Lanka in a Globalized World	DSU5356 Ethnicity in Everyday Life	DSU5344 Sri Lanka in a Globalized World	DSU5326 Media Organizations and Management
DSU5346 Cyber Politics and the State	DSU5346 Cyber Politics and the State	DSU5346 Cyber Politics and the State	DSU5322 Media Occupation & Professions
Choose one from below	Choose one from below	Choose one from below	Choose one from below
DSU5361 Extended Essay	DSU5361 Extended Essay	DSU5361 Extended Essay	DSU5356 Ethnicity in Everyday Life
DSU5362 Internship	DSU5362 Internship	DSU5362 Internship	DSU5354 Health & Society
			Choose one from below
			DSU5361 Extended Essay
			DSU5362 Internship
DSE5301-Statistics for Social Sciences			