



OUSL

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



PROSPECTUS

BA IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ACADEMIC YEAR
2026/27

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL STUDIES



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Programme Overview

The Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Community Development aims to empower youth work professionals with essential competencies crucial for driving national development initiatives forward. This degree programme addresses a pressing national requirement for trained youth workers during a time of accelerated national development efforts, aimed at mobilizing youth for nation-building. It responds directly to the professional community's call to enhance the professionalization of youth work, aligning it with standards set for Social Work.

Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Community Development

The curriculum integrates mandatory and elective courses from the BA in Social Sciences, the Diploma in Youth Development, and specialized courses developed by the Commonwealth Higher Education Youth Work Consortium.

The programme includes specialized professional training supported by the Professional Youth Workers Association (PYWA).

Each academic year is divided into two semesters, and student assessment involves continuous assessments and final examinations for each course per semester. In Level 5, students are required to complete either an internship or an extended essay.

Upon request, students can attain a Diploma or Higher Diploma in Youth and Community Development after successfully completing Level 3 and Level 4, respectively.

Making Changes to Registered Courses

After registration students are allowed a specific period to modify their registered courses. Changes such as adding or dropping courses can be made within this designated timeframe using a prescribed form available from the Assistant Registrar of the Faculty. For assistance, students may also consult with the Department Coordinator or the Regional Director in their respective areas. Course changes must maintain a credit load ranging from a minimum of 9 credits to a maximum of 36 credits. Modifications to registered courses are not permitted after the designated period ends.

Objectives of the Programme

- **Professional Recognition:** Provide youth workers with credentials recognized internationally.
- **Core Competencies:** Equip practitioners with essential competencies, knowledge, values, and skills in Youth and Community Development.
- **Engagement in National Development:** Facilitate youth involvement in national development through informed policy development, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Professional Development:** Cultivate highly competent individuals enthusiastic about employment in Youth and Community development fields.
- **Qualification:** Enable practitioners to obtain a professional education qualification relevant to national development through the Open University of Sri Lanka.
- **Youth Engagement:** Develop professional youth workers capable of engaging effectively with young people and society.

Academic Activities and Locations

This programme is offered at all Regional Centres. Conducting academic activities at study centers will depend on the number of students registered at the respective Study Center.

Prize and Gold Medal for the best performers in the BA in Youth and Community Development Degree Programme

Students who perform well in the BA Degree in Youth and Community Development are eligible for the following Prize and Gold Medal at the end of the programme. These are awarded annually at the University Convocation.



Prof. Upali Vidanapathirana Prize for the graduate of the BA in Youth and Community Development (BAYCD) programme who has submitted the best portfolio in the Training Course on Professional Youth Work, DSU5661



Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne Gold Medal for the Best Student in BA in Youth and Community Development

Entry Requirements

- Three (3) passes at the G.C.E (A/L) in any subject stream, OR
- Completion of 30 credits at Level 2 or above from any programme offered by an approved Higher Education Institution, OR
- Completion of NVQ Level 4 or accredited work experience equivalent to NVQ Level 4, OR
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the OUSL.

Medium of Instruction

The programme is conducted in English.

Future Benefits

The Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Community Development is highly valuable for individuals in various professions. The programme encompasses youth and community development work in public, private, and non-governmental sectors. It is ideal for those seeking career advancement, career changes, or entry into youth and community work. Additionally, it benefits knowledge seekers in the field and offers significant advantages for practitioners, policymakers, and researchers aiming to excel in this domain.





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:

Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe (nsabe@ou.ac.lk)

Senior Lecturer, Youth and Community Development Studies

Telephone: +0112-881300

Email: bycdssd@ou.ac.lk

Detailed Curriculum: BA in Youth and Community Development

Level 3 - Semester I	
DSU3521	Introduction to Communication Theory & Practice
DSU3561	Principles and Practices of Youth in Development Work
DSU3551	Understanding Society and Culture
Semester II	
DSU3562	Young People and Society
DSU3542	Politics and Governance: an introduction
DSU3563	Management and Leadership Skills for Youth Work
CE Courses	
LTE34BE	Elementary Level-EAP
LTE34BI	Intermediate Level-EAP
LTE34BA	Advanced Level-EAP
DSE3215	Social Harmony

Level 4 - Semester I	
DSU4562	Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
DSU4561	Promoting Enterprise and Economic Development
DSU4263	Working with Youth in Community and Organizational Settings.
DSU4352	Social Psychology
Semester II	
DSU4564	Conflict Resolution: Strategies and Skills
DSU4566	Contemporary Issues in Youth Development
DSU4365	Gender and Development or
DSU4368	Youth Governance and Participation
DSU4267	Youth and Development Work: Personal and Professional Development
CE Courses	
DSE4207	Non-Violent Communication
DSE5301	Statistics for Social Sciences

Level 5 - Semester 1	
DSU5651	Social Science Research Methods
DSU5661	Training course on professional youth work
DSU5363	Supporting Youth in Grief and Trauma
Semester II	
DSU5469	Youth, Health, Safety and Well-Being
DSU5268	Livelihoods and Development
DSU5324 or	Cross Cultural Communication
DSU5364 or	Youth Advocacy: Principles and Tools
DSU5361 or	Extended Essay
DSU5362	Internship
DSU5367 or	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
DSU5366	Youth and Sustainable Development
CE Courses	
DSE5301	Statistics for Social Sciences