



Postgraduate Certificate Program in Applied Statistics
Faculty of Graduate Studies
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

1. Introduction

Statistical thinking and methods are becoming more and more prevalent in an exceptionally wide range of areas. With this postgraduate qualification in Applied Statistics, students can advance their career in almost any field, including education, science, technology, health care, government, or business. In Sri Lanka, qualified statisticians are well received by various institutions such as the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Department of Census and Statistics and Coconut/Tea/Rubber research institutes to name but a few. The demand for trained statisticians continues to increase in the industry as well as it is becoming more dependent on predictive data and numerical reasoning.

There is a high demand for professionals with postgraduate qualifications in Applied Statistics in the country. Professionals from various backgrounds are also keen in obtaining basic statistical knowledge in order to advance in their careers. This Postgraduate Certificate program has been specially designed for those who wish to gain a basic knowledge in statistics which may be of interest to professionals from various backgrounds seeking to gain some basic knowledge in statistical methods. For example, following successful completion, professionals from various fields such as medicine, engineering, management, social sciences, biological sciences, marketing, pharmaceuticals etc. will be able to design surveys/experiments and then analyze the data collected through them. Further to this, this postgraduate program will be of benefit for those who are following programs such as M.B.A., M.D. as these programs require a basic knowledge in Statistics to succeed.

Postgraduate Certificate program in Applied Statistics is a University Grants Commission (UGC) approved program that has been designed to meet Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF 7) guidelines.

Upon successful completion of this program the candidates are eligible to apply for our MSc in Applied Statistics program (SLQF 10) together with fulfillment of at least one of the following:

- **A Bachelor's Degree from any field of study with 10 credits in Statistics and/or a related field from a recognized university.**
- **At least one year working experience in a related field.**

2. Objectives of the Degree Program

The main objective of the Postgraduate Certificate program in Applied Statistics is to provide professionals from various fields with a basic knowledge in Applied Statistics. Those who complete the program successfully will be capable of solving statistical problems arising in practical situations in a broad range of fields.

The Postgraduate Certificate program in Applied Statistics provides

- (a) Essential theoretical knowledge in Statistics,
- (b) An opportunity for graduates who have not studied Statistics to learn Statistics,
- (c) Knowledge in applications of Statistics and training in data analysis required by graduate employees in various fields,
- (d) An opportunity for graduate employees to gain higher education qualifications required for their promotions and career development.

Graduate Profile:

The postgraduate student who successfully completes the degree is expected to demonstrate;

- An understanding of essential theoretical knowledge in statistics,
- An ability to apply the gained knowledge and training in data analysis to solve real-life problems.

Professional and Employment Opportunities:

Advancement in careers in census and statistics field, opportunities to enter the banking sector including central bank. As the country's monitoring, reviewing and valuation processes advance the graduate in this field will have numerous options.

3. Eligibility requirement (2026 intake)

Bachelor's Degree from any field of study from a university or an equivalent institution recognized by University Grants Commission/University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Adequate mathematical knowledge is recommended.

4. Selection criteria (2026 intake)

An interview will be held to select candidates if required.

5. Course Units in the Postgraduate Certificate programme in Applied Statistics

Semesters	Course Code	Course Name	Credit Value	Status
1	STA 500 0.0	Basic Mathematics with Software and Introduction to Statistical Software*	0.0	Compulsory
	STA 501 1.0	Descriptive Statistics	1.0	Core
	STA 502 2.0	Probability and Distribution Theory	2.0	Core
	STA 503 1.0	Sampling Techniques	1.0	Core
	STA 504 2.0	Statistical Inference	2.0	Core
	STA 532 2.0	Spreadsheet Modelling	2.0	Core
	STA 506 2.0	Linear Regression Analysis	2.0	Core

2	STA 507 1.0	Nonparametric Statistics	1.0	Core
	STA 508 1.0	Industrial Statistics	1.0	Core
	STA 509 2.0	Introduction to Design and Analysis of Experiments	2.0	Core
	STA 510 2.0	Categorical Data Analysis	2.0	Core
	STA 511 2.0	Applied Multivariate Analysis	2.0	Core
	STA 512 2.0	Data Analysis	2.0	Core

Postgraduate Certificate: Total number of lecture hours is 300 hours. Total number of credits is 20.

*STA 500 0.0 is a compulsory foundation course which will run during the first two weeks after the commencement of the program. All candidates are required to follow this course and obtain a minimum 'C' Grade.

6. Fee structure

Fees	Per Student (Rs.)
Course Fee/Tuition Fee	Rs. 200,000.00
Application Fee	Rs. 2000.00
Registration Fee	Rs. 5000.00
Library – Non refundable	Rs. 5000.00
Library – Refundable	Rs. 5000.00
End Semester Examination per Course	Included in the course fee
Viva Voce Examination	NA
Repeat Examination per Course	As set by FGS

Payment plans on offer for 2026 intake:

Method 1: Make the full course fee+other fees at the time of the registration.

Method 2: Pay in two installments.

- First instalment: 60% of the course fee + other fees at the time of the registration
- Second instalment: remainder within three months from the date of the registration

7. Program Delivery and Learner Support System

- All lectures will be conducted online on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. via the Zoom platform. The zoom link and the lecture recordings will be provided by the respective lecturer.
- A discussion session will be conducted for each course unit in every semester at the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The department is located on the third floor of the New Faculty Complex (NFC) building which is located within the Faculty of Applied Sciences premises. As no lectures, assignments, or examinations will be conducted during these sessions, attendance is not compulsory.

- GOOGLE CLASSROOM/Learning Management System (LMS): Various functionalities in one of these applications will be used to enhance the learning and teaching experience.
- **E-mail is considered as an official way of communication.** In particular, e-mail will be the way of communication between the coordinator and the candidates. Each candidate must have an active personal e-mail address and the e-mail address (a gmail account will be required to join a google classroom) must be provided to the coordinator. Any change of the e-mail address must be notified to the coordinator. It is the responsibility of the student to check e-mail regularly.
- Semester end examinations: End of the Semester examinations will be held at the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- Medical Certificates for the examinations: All medical certificates must be approved by the university medical officer. A medical certificate will be considered only if it has been approved by the university medical officer. Obtaining the approval of the university medical officer is a responsibility of the student. Medical certificates should be submitted to the coordinator within two weeks from the date of the examination. Excuses should be informed immediately to the coordinator of the program.
- Examination Offences: Plagiarism and examination offences are dealt with according to the prevailing rules and regulations of the university.

8. Program Assessment Procedure/Rules

Formative and summative examinations in the program:

- Method of assessment can differ from course-unit to course-unit. For each course unit, a course description including the topics, course objectives, learning outcomes, method of evaluation and a tentative schedule for assessments will be given by the lecturer in-charge at the beginning of the course unit.
- Assessments can be in the form of take-home assignments, quizzes, oral presentations, etc.
- There are two types of assessments. The assessments held between the first lecture and the last lecture are called 'mid-course-unit assessments' (MCUA). The overall assessment held after the last lecture of a course unit is called the 'end-course-unit assessment' (ECUA).

Scheme of Grading (Grades/Grade Points/ Marks ranges):

The Grade Point (GP) system for course units and thesis/dissertation is given as follows:

GP	0.0			1.0	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.7
Grade	M	ab	E	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-
Mark range	-	-	0-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54
Interpretation	Absent on medical reasons	Absent	Bad	Bad - Weak	Weak	Weak - Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Fair	Fair - Good

GP	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.0	
Grade	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Mark range	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-84	85-100
Interpretation	Good	Very good	Very good - Excellent	Excellent	Outstanding

Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA):

The Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated as

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_i (C_i \times GP_i)}{\sum_i C_i},$$

where

C_i = Credit Value of the i th course unit

GP_i = GP for the i th course unit

Repeat/Make up examinations:

- A candidate who wants to improve the GP for any course unit up to 3.0 may sit for the assessments of that course unit with the immediately following batch. The maximum GP obtainable by such a candidate is 3.0. In order to sit for the second attempt, the candidate should pay the 'repeat assessment fee'.
- None of the assessments will be held more than once within a program. A candidate can make a second attempt only with the immediately following batch.
- If a candidate becomes absent for an assessment, he/she may sit for that assessment with the immediately following batch. Whether the candidate can sit with full privileges or not will be decided by the senate depending on the reason for the absence. If a candidate is not eligible for full privileges, he/she is considered as a 'repeat candidate'
- Excuses for examinations will be accepted only if they are approved by the University.
- The maximum number of times that a candidate can face any assessment is two.

Evaluation

To award the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Statistics, a candidate should obtain

- A GPA of not less than 2.7 for all semester 1 and 2 core courses
AND
- A 'C' or a higher grade for the foundation course unit.

9. Panel of Lecturers

Name of the Lecturer	Designation
Prof. Sarath Banneheka B.Sc.(Special)(Math., USJ, SL), M.Sc.(Math., London, UK), M.Sc.(Stat., SFU, CA), Ph.D.(Stat., SFU, CA)	Professor, USJ
Mr. P Dias B.Sc.(Special)(Math., USJ, SL), PG.Dip.(Stat., UOC, SL), M.Sc.(Math., Curtin, AUS)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Nirosan Withanage B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., UOC, SL), M.Sc.(Applied Stat., Limburghs, BE), M.Sc.(Biostat., Hasselt, BE), Ph.D.(Stat., Calgary, CA)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Ravindra Lokupitiya B.Sc.(UOC, SL), M.Sc.(Stat., Wyoming, USA), Ph.D.(Stat., Wyoming, USA)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Chitraka Wickramarachchi B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., USJ, SL), M.Sc.(Applied Stat., PDN, SL), M.Phil.(Stat., PDN, SL), Ph.D.(Stat., Canterbury, NZ)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Rajitha M. Silva B.Sc.(Hons.)(Industrial Math., RUSL, SL), M.Sc.(Industrial Math., PDN, SL), M.Sc.(Stat., SHSU, USA), Ph.D.(Stat., SFU, CA)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Chathuri Jayasinghe B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., USJ, SL), M.Sc.(Applied Stat., RMIT, AUS), Ph.D.(Stat., RMIT, AUS)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Neluka Devpura B.Sc. (Special)(Stat., UOC, SL), M.Sc. (Research, NUS, SG), Ph.D. (Finance, Deakin, AUS)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Thiyanga Talagala B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., USJ, SL), M.Sc.(Financial Math., UOM, SL), Ph.D.(Stat., Monash, AUS)	Senior Lecturer I, USJ
Dr. Manjula Perera B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., USJ, SL), M.Sc.(Financial Math., UOM, SL), Ph.D.(Stat., USJ, SL)	Senior Lecturer II, USJ
Dr. Prasansha Liyanarachchi B.Sc.(Special)(Stat., UOP, SL), M.Sc.(Stat., SHSU, USA), Ph.D. (Stat., ODU, USA)	Senior Lecturer II, USJ
Dr. P. G. T. Harshani B.Sc.(Kelaniya), M.Sc.(Texas Tech, USA), Ph.D.(Texas Tech, USA)	Senior Lecturer I, Dept. of Mathematics, USJ

10. Coordinator's details

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