



INTRODUCTION OF NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS AT GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

More than 1600 undergraduate and 140 post graduate degrees have been awarded by General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) during the last 28 years. The undergraduate degrees offered until 2008 consisted of five degree programmes leading to Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Engineering namely Mechanical, Marine, Electrical & Electronic, Civil and Aeronautical Engineering. In addition, B.Sc. degree in Management & Technical Sciences (MTS), Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce were offered totalling to eight degree programmes.

The Faculty of Academic Studies was restructured in 2010 to form four new faculties namely Faculty of Medicine, Engineering, Law, and Management, Social Sciences & Humanities. New academic and non-academic civil and military staff will be recruited for these faculties. Faculty of Engineering will bring the five existing engineering departments of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Mathematics & Computer Sciences, Marine Engineering & Sciences, Civil, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering under one umbrella. The Departments of Logistic Management, Social Sciences and Languages will form the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences & Humanities. While retaining the B.Sc. Engineering and MTS degree programs, three new degree programmes were introduced to KDU considering the needs of the tri-services.

The Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (MBBS) which is of 5 years duration was introduced in 2009. At present, two intakes of cadets are undergoing their pre-clinical studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna at Karapitiya and will return to Ratmalana campus when the infra structure facilities will be ready by 2011. The new degree programmes initiated in 2010 include Bachelor of Laws (LLB) of 4 year duration, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Logistic Management and Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Social Sciences which are of 3 years duration. The B.Sc. in Logistic Management and B.Sc. in Social Sciences will replace the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce degree programmes offered at present. The cadets following the B.Sc. degree in Logistic Management will major in one of the areas related to Supply Chain Management, Transport Management or Financial Management. The introduction of the new degree programmes create opportunities for students following any stream of the GCE (Advanced Level), Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences or Arts to apply for admission to KDU. The curricula of the new degree programmes were developed and existing curricula were revised according to the credit based course unit system, where students will be evaluated using the Grade Point Averages (GPA). The curriculum was revised with the assistance of Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) Council of the University Grants Commission. The curricula of the Engineering Degrees were revised considering the curricula of national and international universities and extending them to four years of duration which facilitates recognition by Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL).

A total of seven academic staff members are following the Staff Development Programs conducted by the Universities of Colombo and Peradeniya to improve their skills in teaching methodologies, preparation of handouts etc. According to the new structure, a Staff Development Center of its own will be established at KDU in near future. New laboratory equipment for the engineering laboratories and books for the library were purchased to facilitate the teaching of new and revised degree programs. Aeronautical Engineering degree program was opened for fee levying students from this year. Other degree programs will also be opened for fee levying students who will be free to find their own employment but will be enlisted to the volunteer force. The development of these new degree programmes and revision of existing degree programmes will facilitate producing graduates according to the needs of the tri-service for the protection and development of the country in the future.

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