

Non - State Higher Education Circular No. 01/2022

My No. HE/NS/MU/GENARAL
Monitoring Unit
Non-State Higher Education Division
Ministry of Education

21.08.2022

The Chief Executive Officer
Degree Awarding Non-State Higher Education Institute

Adherence to the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework and Strengthening the Quality assurance Systems in Non-State Higher Education Institutes

Non-State Higher Education Institutes of Sri Lanka cater the rising demand of Sri Lankan students who are unable to secure a placement in the State University System or who cannot afford overseas education or who willing to study in a Private Institution rather a State University.

Main objectives of any student studying in a State or Non-State Institution are to secure better carrier opportunities, expand the knowledge base and get opportunities for postgraduate education in prestigious foreign universities. Therefore ensuring the proper quality aspects are maintained by these Institutions is an area of concern of the relevant authorities.

During the period of 2005-2015 the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka has set up a robust and comprehensive Quality Assurance System within the State University Sector. Under this concept the following 5 major components have been identified as the major criteria in assuring and enhancing the Quality of Education provided by the Universities.

- 1. Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF)**
- 2. Subject Benchmarking**
- 3. Code of Practice (COD)**
- 4. Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)**
- 5. External Quality Assurance (EQA)**

From the above components Sri Lanka Qualification Framework which was introduced in 2012 was adopted in State Universities via UGC Circular No. 05/2013, to create an integral national framework for learning achievements by recognizing and accrediting qualification offered by different institutions engaged in higher education and vocational training. This framework was introduced to the Non-State higher education Institutions which has been recognized by the section 25A of the Universities Act No.16 of 1978, via the letter dated 14.09.2016.

Thereafter, UGC Circular No. 04/2015 was issued on 05.05.2015 to enable universities and other higher educational institutions in Sri Lanka to set up their own internal quality assurance system at a high level of functionality. It is observed at present majority of the NSHEIs have established Internal Quality Assurance Units to ensure the proper quality standards are maintained.

Accordingly you all are requested to adhere to the SLQF guidelines and establish/strengthen Internal Quality Assurance units to ensure the quality of education as guided by the UGC Circular No.04/2015.

Moreover, the term 'Non-State Higher Education Institutes' will be replaced hereafter by the term 'Degree Awarding Non-State Higher Education Institutes'.

This Circular is issued as per the recommendations of the Standing committee on Accreditation and Quality Assurance (SCAQA) given on 11.07.2022 at its 78th meeting.



M. N. Ranasinghe
Secretary/Specified Authority