

## USE OF DESIGNATORS AND QUALIFIERS IN NAMING

### SLQF LEVEL 5 & 6 QUALIFICATIONS

#### Introduction

According to the SLQF there are three *terms* associated in naming qualifications:

- Qualification *type* is the first name given to a qualification.
- The *designator* is the second name given to a qualification. This indicates the broad area of study or discipline
- The *qualifier* is the third name given to a qualification. This is used to indicate the field of specialization of a qualification.

Further, the SLQF gives guidelines on designators and designators associated with a qualification. The following table indicates them for SLQF Levels 5, & 6.

Qualification Level	SLQF Level 5	SLQF Level 6
Qualification Type	<b>BACHELORS DEGREE</b>	<b>BACHELORS HONOURS DEGREE</b>
Designator	Bachelor's degree designators <i>are limited to broad areas of study and disciplines.</i>  E.g. Bachelor of <i>Science</i> , Bachelor of <i>Arts</i>	Bachelor's Honours Degree designators <i>are specific and are limited to broad generic areas of discipline or study.</i>  E.g. Bachelor of <i>Science</i> Honours, Bachelor of <i>Arts</i> Honours, Bachelor of <i>Commerce</i> Honours
Qualifier	Maximum two  E.g. Bachelor of Arts in <i>Peace and Conflict Resolution</i> , Bachelor of Science in <i>Environmental Management</i>	Maximum two  E.g. Bachelor of Science Honours in <i>Engineering in Mechanical Engineering</i> , Bachelor of Arts Honours in <i>Sociology</i> , Bachelor of Science Honours in <i>Chemistry</i> .

According to current practice in the Sri Lankan university system, the *designators* are largely faculty specific, as listed in the UGC website:

<http://www.ugc.ac.lk/en/universities-and-institutes/degree-courses/undergraduate-courses.html>

However, there has been much debate and controversy over the use of designators. This paper is meant to set out some basic principles to be followed when determining the most appropriate designator and qualifier to be used in a specific instance.

### **Guidelines on Designators:**

- 1) Since a faculty is a division within a university comprising one subject area, or a number of related subject areas, all SLQF level 5 and 6 degree programmes offered by that faculty should be associated with a maximum of two or three designators with justifications.

E.g.

<b>University</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Designator/s</b>
Colombo	Management and Finance	Business Administration
Peradeniya	Management	Business Administration Commerce Science
Sri Jayawardenapura	Management Studies and Commerce	Commerce Science
Kelaniya	Commerce and Management Studies	Business Management Commerce
Moratuwa	Business	Business Science
Jaffna	Management Studies and Commerce	Business Administration Business Management Commerce
Ruhuna	Management and Finance	Business Administration
Open	Management Studies	Management Studies
Eastern	Commerce and Management	Business Administration Commerce

South Eastern	Management and Commerce	Business Administration Commerce Science
Rajarata	Management Studies	Business Administration
Sabaragamuwa	Management Studies	Science
Wayamba	Business Studies and Finance	Science
Uwa – Wellassa	Management	Business Management

2) By taking 1) into account, the respective standing committee should list the possible designators coming under its purview. The UGC should display the list of designators permitted on their website.

E.g. Degree programmes with the following designators, all fall under the purview of the UGC Standing Committee of Management Studies:

- i. Business Administration
- ii. Business Management
- iii. Management Studies
- iv. Commerce
- v. Science
- vi. Business Science

3) It is possible to have the same designator coming under the purview of different standing committees.

E.g. The designator “Science” is currently used in degree programmes that fall under the purview of five UGC standing committees:

- i. Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences
- ii. Engineering & Architecture
- iii. Computing
- iv. Sciences
- v. Allied Health Sciences
- vi. Management Studies

4) If a new degree programme of SLQF Levels 5 or 6 plans to have a name with a designator that is not listed in the above website in 2), then it needs the prior approval of the UGC.

**Guidelines on Qualifiers:**

- 1) A qualifier indicates a specialization within the broad area of study identified as the designator. The nature and characteristics of this specific area and the general expectations about the standards for the award of such qualification should be covered by an appropriate Subject Benchmark Statement (SBS).
- 2) If a university plans to offer a new qualification of SLQF Levels 5 or 6 with a qualifier that is not covered by an SBS, then the university should obtain the prior approval of the UGC.

**General Guidelines:**

- 1) In case a faculty that is associated with the Standing Committee 1 seeks approval from the UGC to offer a degree program in a particular subject area or a discipline that is related to or has an overlapping with study programmes coming under the purview of the Standing Committee 2, then the concurrence of two standing committees of the UGC is necessary to move the application forward.