



## Calling Applications for the Research Training Collaboration (Joint PhD Programme) between University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia - 2026

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) an Australian higher education institution ranked 125 in the world (QS world ranking 2026) has partnered with University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to train eligible academics, researchers and administrative staff of Sri Lankan Universities through a joint PhD program.

The UGC-RMIT Joint PhD Programme is a strategic initiative launched in 2023 to enhance the qualifications and research capacity of the Sri Lankan university system. This partnership offers a world-class pathway for our lecturers and administrative staff to obtain their PhDs from a globally recognized institution, which is a fundamental requirement for their confirmation, recruitment, and long term professional development.

### Scholarship Opportunities for 2026

For the 2026 intake, applications are invited for **15 PhD scholarships** distributed as follows:

- **13 Scholarships** for permanent members of the **Academic Staff**.
- **02 Scholarships** for permanent members of the **Administrative Staff**.

### Participating Universities

Successful candidates will co-enroll at RMIT University and one of the following four partner institutions in Sri Lanka:

- University of Moratuwa (UoM)
- University of Peradeniya (UoP)
- University of Ruhuna (UoR)
- University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP)

\*Applicants must not select their affiliated university as the local institution for the PhD enrollment and Local University fees may apply.

### Research Priority Areas

Agriculture and food security, Digital transformation, Education and skills development, Energy and environmental sustainability, Liveability, Public Health & Health Services, Health Equity, Fisheries and ocean resources, Industrial growth, Infrastructure modernization, and Community development



## Scholarship Benefits

- **Full Tuition Waiver:** RMIT University provides a tuition fee scholarship for up to 3.5 years (approximate value AUD 80,000).
- **Living Stipend:** RMIT provides a living allowance for up to 12 months during the candidate's research period in Melbourne, Australia (approximate value AUD 36,000).
- **Staff Development:** Successful candidates will be based in Sri Lanka for 2.5 years and spend up to 12 months (maximum) at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia.

## Minimum entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree requiring at least four (4) years of full-time study in a relevant discipline awarded with **1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> class upper division honours**, or Bachelor's degree requiring at least four (4) years of full-time study in a relevant discipline and a Master's degree in the same relevant discipline at SLQF level 10 or above.
- Applicants must be permanent staff members entitled to paid study leave.
- Proof of English proficiency equivalent to not less than overall band of 6.5 IELTS (each band above 6.0) will be required at the RMIT registration process. (Refer to RMIT's website for details <https://www.rmit.edu.au/>).
- Applicants are encouraged to check the published projects on RMIT website <https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/research-degrees/find-a-project> and align their applications to these areas.
- Applicants can also propose their own research areas of interest and RMIT coordinators will attempt to identify academic supervisors with similar interests where possible.
- Applicants should follow the Guidelines for UGC Postgraduate Grant Schemes <https://www.ugc.ac.lk/downloads/dric/PG%20research%20grants/GUIDELINES.pdf> and send their duly filled application along with a Research Proposal to the **Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, No 20, Ward Place, Colombo 07** through formal channel.

This program is recognized as an official pathway for staff confirmation and career progression.

Applicants are also requested to email above documents to [dric@ugc.ac.lk](mailto:dric@ugc.ac.lk) in advance.

Closing date of application is **03<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**.

Please contact UGC via [dric@ugc.ac.lk](mailto:dric@ugc.ac.lk) for any clarification.