

National Centre for Advanced Studies (NCAS)

CORPORATE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

2024-2028

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Vision

"To be a Centre of excellence of national and international repute, building synergies between knowledge, resources, research, education and social activity in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences."

Mission

"Recognizing the need to strengthen and upgrade teaching and research at all Sri Lankan universities, Realizing the need that universities should contribute to the development of the country and society through research and policy inputs, NCAS shall support both theoretical and applied postgraduate, post-doctoral and other research in the Humanities and Social Sciences and promote advance thinking and creative originality by motivating and rewarding academics in that direction. NCAS will be an apex body within Sri Lanka's university system networking with national and international organizations to achieve its objectives."

Introduction

The National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) was established by Ordinance under the Universities Act No 16 of 1978 in September 2005 with the following specific objectives;

- (1) to encourage and nurture reflective thinking and innovative ideas, and to support research characterized by creativity and originality, at national level especially within the University System, in fields falling within the scope of the Centre,
- (2) to contribute to build national capacity to absorb new knowledge and advanced ideas;
- (3) to provide opportunities for post-graduate studies and training, at levels comparable with those offered in their respective fields by similar internationally reputed centres of learning and research, under the guidance and supervision of academics and other specialists from national and foreign universities and from outside the University System;
- (4) to contribute to the upgrading of human-resources and the development of academic and professional specializations in all fields falling within the scope of the Centre;
- (5) to cater to the interest and capabilities of the emerging academic and professional communities in fields falling within the scope of the Centre.

The NCAS has been in operation on an interim basis until the end of 2007. Nevertheless, it made following significant achievements by 2019.

1. Selection and funding of about 528 academics to pursue their doctoral degrees overseas and in local universities.
2. Facilitating the academics in improving the knowledge and skills on new software (AMOS, EVIEWS, NVIVO) and expansion of its services, other expansion of the facilities from the NCAS website and extend usage of digital library.
3. Implementation of workshops, seminars and guest lectures to promote research and encourage academics, management skills of administrative staff and capacities of non- academic staff.
4. Successfully conducted of Annual Research Symposia and conducting the 5th International Research Symposium (IRSSSH) 2023 with the participation of national and international academics, researchers and eminent in the field.

Land and Buildings

The National Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) is located in the down town Colombo at No. 6A, Sukhastan Gardens, Ward Place, Colombo 07, where it has been a place of easy access by anyone who is interested in engaging in his/her studies. Located in a highly residential area where the peace and quietness stays all the times, the place can call is an ideal place for advanced Studies with a calm and tranquil atmosphere in the middle of the town. Virtual enough that the NCAS fully owns the building and free of any rentals or long term lease. It has its own car park enabling to park four vehicle at any one time, it has its own library, Computer laboratory and classrooms for the trainees to come and participate in their sessions.

Human Resources

The approved cadre and filled positions of NCAS as at 2019 are given in **Annexure 1**. With the aim of expanding its services and contributions, the NCAS revised its organogram and given in the **Annexure 2**.

4.3 Finance

The NCAS totally depends on the grants provided by the UGC/Treasury to meet its capital and recurrent expenditure requirements. The allocation of grants and the utilization is given in the **Table 01** whereas the grants awarded during the year 2023 through two (02) cycles are given in **Table 02**.

Table 01- Status of the Grants awarded by NCAS from 2005-2023

Year	Awarded	Awarded amount	Defaulted	Fully recovered (out of defaulted	To be recovered	Ongoing	Completed	QUT
2005	60	27,500,000.00	14	11	3		46	
2006	58	42,500,000.00	15	12	3		43	
2008	34	23,589,220.00	8	8			26	
2009	47	39,665,659.00	7	5	2		40	
2010	42	39,364,958.79	3	3			39	
2011	42	68,720,000.00	4	3	1		38	
2012	30	62,280,000.00	2	-	2		28	
2013	44	83,035,817.00	6	3	3		38	
2014	46	95,396,122.00	6	3	3		40	4
2015	41	83,598,118.69	10	5	5		27	2
2016	24	68,644,031.50	3	2	1	5	16	8

2017	13	59,977,493.16	4	3	1	1	9	4
2018	9	68,998,988.78	6	1	5	2	1	5
2019	6	51,625,617.73	1		1	4	1	
2020	10	42,993,988.12	1	1		9		3
2021	5	31,392,029.73				5		
2022		20,835,033.19						
2023	11					7		
Total	522	14,896,026.65	90	60	30	37	392	26

Table 02- Details of the Grants awarded by NCAS in the year 2023

1st Round

	Name	University & Department	Current status
1	Mr. N Sivakaran	Dept. of Philosophy, University of Jaffna	Released
2	Ms. K J T Perera	Dept. of Management Sciences, Uwa Wellassa University of Sri Lanka	Released
3	Mr. H P H P K Pathirana	Dept. of English Language Teaching, University of Kelaniya	Released
4	Ms. A W G C N Wijethunga	Dept. of Accountancy & Finance, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	Released
5	Ms. P N Gardihewa	Dept. of English Language Teaching, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine	Released
6	Ms. M N F Sakeena	Library, University of Colombo	Released
7	Mr. N M M Safeek	Dept. of Educational Psychology, University of Colombo	Released
8	Ms. N K Abeyesiriwardena	Dept. of Business Economics, University of Colombo	Cancelled by the Applicant
9	Ms. D A G P K Gayathree	Dept. of Marketing Management, University of Kelaniya	Pending
10	Mr. G C I Gunarathne	Dept. of Operation Management, University of Peradeniya	Pending
11	Ms. R L A N Ranaweera	Dept. of Language Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka	Pending

2nd Round

	Name	University & Department	Current status
1	Ms. I K Galagama	Dept. of Philosophy, Faculty of Social Sciences	Released
2	Ms. J T Madukala	Dept. of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce	Released
3	Ms. C Nilanthini	Dept. of History, Faculty of Arts & Culture	Released
4	Ms. S B I Perera	Dept. of Public & International Law	Released
5	Ms. S S Ramanayake	Dept. of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business	Released
6	Ms. J A D U N Jayasuriya	Dept. of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts	Released
7	Ms. Y M S W V Sangaradeniya	Dept. of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce & management Studies	Pending
8	Mr. A M D B Nawarathna	Dept. of Tourism Studies, Faculty of Management	Pending
9	Ms. H K I Sewwandi	Dept. of Library & Information Science, Faculty of Social Sciences	Pending
10	Mr. W M S P K Wanasinghe	Dept. of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts	Pending
11	Ms. R Vithuja	Dept. of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts	Pending
12	Mr. W D N Prasad	Dept. of IT, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce	Pending
13	Mr. D M T P Dasanayake	Dept. of Business Administration, faculty of Management Studies & Commerce	Pending

Summary

Year	Released	Pending	Total
2023 1 st Round	7	3	10
2023 2 nd Round	6	7	13
Total	13	10	23

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	<p>Availability of expertise through the Councils of the Organization.</p> <p>Satisfactory rapport between the Universities and the NCAS.</p> <p>Availability of dedicated staff.</p> <p>Availability of qualified staff to coordinate activities related to publication of Journals.</p> <p>Continuation of the Sri Lanka Journal of Advanced Social Studies.</p> <p>High demand for fee leaving academic causes introduced by NCAS.</p> <p>Fully equipped computer lab to facilitate for computer based academic causes. Purchase of expensive academic software such as AMOS,EVIEWS, NVIVO</p>
Weaknesses	<p>Rigid rules and regulations.</p> <p>Lack of research culture.</p> <p>Delay in receiving progress reports.</p> <p>Insufficient academic cadre provisions.</p> <p>Inadequate space at NCAS premises to expand activities.</p> <p>Scope limitations exist in mandates.</p>
Opportunities	<p>Increasing demand for Postgraduate qualifications for university academics.</p> <p>High demand for the workshops conducted for academic staff/administrative staff and non-academic staff.</p> <p>Capacity to have national and international collaborations.</p> <p>Feasibility to expose the institute to the international community.</p> <p>Ability to cater for the interest of both academic and public community</p>
Threats	<p>Limitations in government grants.</p> <p>More attractive grants schemes implemented by other organizations.</p> <p>More attractive training programs implemented by other organizations.</p> <p>Scholarship schemes implemented by other funding bodies.</p> <p>Brain drain (by learning) qualified senior academics.</p> <p>Union activities and conflicts which may interrupt the smooth functioning of universities.</p> <p>Lack of sound research culture among young academics.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN -2024-2028
CORPORATE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Goal No. 01: Facilitate Postgraduate Training Leading to PhDs/MPhil		
	Objective	Strategy
01	Increase the No. of PhD holders in State Universities	a) Provide financial assistance to academics to follow PhDs/M.Phil. in reputed local and foreign universities.
		b) Financial assistance for PhD Candidate sunder MOU with QUT (Ongoing).
		c) Financial assistance for PhD Candidates under MOU with QUT (New) (Split-Site)
02	Encourage university teachers and the interested Academic/ Professional holders for training on research	a) Organize and conduct training courses, appoint coordinators and dissemination of knowledge
Goal No. 02: Contribute to the Generation of Human Resource through Exchange Programs		
01	Introduce establish Scholarship Program/ exchange programs to promote Post Graduate Studies	a) Sign MoUs with recognized Universities/ Organizations
Goal No. 03: Cater for the interest and capability of the emerging academic and Professional Communities		
01	Cater for the academic community within and outside the University system to develop professional/ career skills	a) Conduct courses on Smart Literature Review (SLR),
		b) Organize programs that suit and encourage academics to expose themselves
Goal 04: Promote Research Capacities at National and International Level		
01	Dissemination of knowledge through research involvement, finding and scholarly work	a) Promote Research Culture by way of Conference to disseminate/Share new Research Findings
		b) Encourage Academics on Short term Research
02	Dissemination of research involvement finding and scholarly work by way of publications	a) Encourage academic publications & dissemination of knowledge
		b) Encourage academic publications & dissemination of knowledge through virtual platforms/ online portals to the global community

03	Dissemination and sharing research findings through incorporating pioneer international scholar participation by way of collaborating research projects	a) Invite international research scholars/ interested professionals and academics to visit Sri Lanka by affiliating to NCAS to carry on research projects in collaboration with Sri Lankan scholars/ institutes etc.,
Goal No. 05: Encourage and Nurture Reflecting new contributions towards Research Culture		
01	Provide access to a comprehensive collection of academic resources, including journals, books, research papers, and databases	Implement information sharing mechanism centering the NCAS
02	Make aware and involve university academics and interested scholars on current socio-economic research issues	Organize individual and collaborative project
03	Disseminate research Findings	
04	Encourage search for empirical evidence through aural history and socio-cultural interactions	a) Scholarly discussions with eminent in the fields and traditional knowledge hub etc.
		b) Preserving authentic/Traditional Knowledge related to “Humanities & Social sciences”
Goal 06: Enhance capacities of the Administrative Staff of University system and other Professional Bodies		
01	Empower Administrative and Non-Academic staff of university system	Provide training/ update knowledge on professional and administrative skills
Goal 07: Conduct training/ Proficiency/Efficiency programs for the Academic Support/ Non Academic Staff		
01	Empower Academic Support and Non-Academic staff of university system	Provide training for needy communities in the public/ private/ non-state sector education and vocational training
Goal 08- Develop Infrastructure of the NCAS Building Premises		
01	To facilitate and provide feasible environment for re4search, administrative and learning activities conducted by the Center	Improve the quality of the existing building premises of the NCAS

**Proposed Activity Plan to achieve the broader objectives
2024-2028**

Goal No. 01: Facilitate Postgraduate Training Leading to PhDs/MPhil					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Increase the No. of PhD holders in State Universities	a) Provide financial assistance to academics to follow PhDs/M.Phil. in reputed local and foreign universities	Financial assistance for Doctoral Studies (Ongoing)	SAR/SAB		9.5 M
		I. Call applications to select prospective candidates	SAR/ Director/ Senior Fellow	No. of applicants 20	15 M
		II. Review Applications and Review proposals	SAR/ Director		
		III. Short list applications	SAR/ Director/ Research Fellow		
		IV. Schedule and conduct interviews	SAR /MA		
		V. Collect relevant documents and enhance bonds	SAR /SAB		
		VI. Release funds for selected applicants	SAR/ SAB		
		VII. Progress monitoring of PhDs (New)	SAR/ Director/ Senior Fellow		
	b) Financial assistance for PhD Candidates under MOU with QUT (Ongoing)	Financial assistance for PhD Candidates under MOU with QUT (Ongoing)	SAR/ Director/SAB	No. of Applicants : 03	15M
		VI. Release funds for selected applicants	SAR /SAB		
		VII. Progress monitoring of PhDs (under MOUs)	SAR /SAB		
	c) Financial assistance for PhD Candidates under MOU with QUT (New) (Split-Site)	Financial assistance for PhD Candidates under new MOU with QUT (Split-site)	SAR/SAB	No. of Applicants :05	15M
		I. Call applications to select prospective candidates	SAR/ Director/ Senior Fellow		

		II. Review Applications and Review proposals	SAR/ Director	No. of Applicants : 10	
		III. Short list applications	SAR/ Director		
		IV. Schedule and conduct interviews	SAR /CAA		
		V. Collect relevant documents and enhance bonds	SAR /SAB		
		VI. Release funds for selected applicants	SAR/ SAB		
		VII. Progress monitoring of PhDs (under MOUs)	SAR/ Director/ Senior Fellow		
Encourage university teachers and the interested Academic/ Professional holders for training on research	a) Organize and conduct training courses, appoint coordinators and dissemination of knowledge	I. Courses on Research Methodology	Director/Research Fellow	No of courses/2 No of Participants /30	Self-Funded
		II. Short courses on proposal development and academic writing	Director/ Research Fellow	No of courses/2 No of Participants /30	
		III. Course on quantitative data analysis (SPSS)	Director/ Senior Assistant Librarian	No of courses/2 No of Participants /50	
		IV. Course on Structural equation modeling with AMOS		No of courses/4 No of Participants / 60	
		V. NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis		No of courses/2 No of Participants / 30	
		VI. Conduct short courses on leading a good Literature Review	Director/Research Fellow	No of courses/2 No of Participants / 30	
		IX. Workshop on 'Introduction to Qualitative and	Director/ Senior Assistant Librarian	No of courses/2	

		Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis'		No of Participants /30	
		X. Workshop on Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling (with SmartPLS) for Quantitative Research	Director/ Senior Assistant Librarian	No of courses/2 No of Participants /30	
Goal No. 02: Contribute to the Generation of Human Resource through Exchange Programs					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Introduce establish Scholarship Program/exchange programs to promote Post Graduate Studies		Sign MoUs with recognized Universities/Organizations	Director/ Research Fellow	No of MoU/02	10M
Goal No. 03: Cater for the interest and capability of the emerging academic and Professional Communities					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Cater for the academic community within and outside the University system to develop professional/ career skills	a) Conduct courses on Smart Literature Review (SLR), 2) Organize programs that suit and encourage academics to	Introduce programs with the purview of the College of Fellows/ Senior Fellows for the state/ non-state and private Universities and HEIs.	Director/ BOS/COM		Self Funded
		Introduce Diplomas/ Higher Diplomas/ Degree/Post Graduate Diplomas and other Academic Certificates	Director/ BOS/ COM		
		a) Degrees (MA/ MPhil/PhD)			

	expose themselves				
		b) Post Graduate Diplomas		No of Participan ts -30	
		c) other Academic Certificates			
Goal 04: Promote Research Capacities at National and International Level					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Disseminatio n of knowledge through research involvement, finding and scholarly work	1) Promote Research Culture by way of Conference to disseminate/Sh are new Research Findings	a) Organize International Research Symposium	Director/ Senior Fellow/Senior Assistant Librarian/ SAR/SAB	No of events/2	5M
		i. Appoint Organizing Committees		150	
		ii. Call for Abstract		150	
		iii. Reviewing and editing		01 volume with selected abstracts	
		iv. Printing and publishing of proceedings of the abstract			
		v. Organize symposium related activities.			
	2)Encourage Academics on Short term Research	b). Engage in Novel Research in Humanities & Social Sciences	Director/ Senior Fellow	No of Award/ 3- 5	Generate d Funds + 1 M
		i. Develop Guideline			
		ii. Calling Applications			
		iii. Distribute among University Academics			
		1v. Review proposals			
		c) Organize a Research colloquium	Director/ Senior Fellow	No of events/1	1M
		i. Appoint a Panel of Reviews			
		ii. Invitation for Grantees/Supervisors			
		iii. Assign a date to evaluate the Progress			

		iv. Give Recommendations			
Dissemination of research finding and scholarly work by way of publications	1) Encourage academic publications & dissemination of knowledge	a) NCAS Research Journals (Two Vol's per year)	Director/ Senior Fellow/Senior Assistant Librarian	No of issues/2	0.6M
		i. Call for Papers		10	
		ii. Appoint an editorial board			
		iii. Review Articles		10	
		iv. Select Articles		05	
		v. Editing		05	
		vi. Publishing		05	
		b) Publication of Scholarly work-books/Monographs/Translations etc.	Director/ Senior Fellow	No. of Manuscripts 03.	0.5M
		i. Prepare Guideline			
		ii Call for Publications			
		iii. Appoint a Panel for Reviews			
		iv. Obtain the finally selected Publications for Printing			
		v. Calling Quotation for Printing			
2) Encourage academic publications & dissemination of knowledge through virtual platforms/online portals to the global community	c)Obtain the standard of "Indexed Journal" to the NCAS Research Journal	Director/ Senior Fellow	No of issues/2	0.5M	
	i. Submit Application				
	ii. Follow the Guidelines				
	ii. Enhance the required Specifications				
	c) Develop E-Library/ Virtual Library with free access	Director/ Senior Assistant Librarian	Upload completed theses and the abstracts	3M	
	i. Develop E-Repository of thesis, abstracts completed				

		under the NCAS Grants		and research articles	
		ii. Develop E-repository of full thesis with copy right to the grantee			
		iii. Develop E-repository with Research articles, new research findings of the NCAS Grantees			
		iv. Invite open expression of interest from scholars University wide national and International for online uploading submission through NCAS E-Library			
Dissemination and sharing research findings through incorporating pioneer international scholar participation by way of collaborating research projects	1) Invite international research scholars/ interested professionals and academics to visit Sri Lanka by affiliating to NCAS to carry on research projects in collaboration with Sri Lankan scholars/ institutes etc.,	Provide a suitable work environment for the overseas research scholars to visit NCAS as resident research fellows for a particular period and work with desired study groups	Director/SAL/ Research Fellow/SAR	Upload the results of the projects completed by the invited research fellows to the e-library/ e-repository of the NCAS	2M
Goal No. 05: Encourage and Nurture Reflecting new contributions towards Research Culture					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Provide access to a	Implement information	Establish an Information and	Director/SAL		

comprehensive collection of academic resources, including journals, books, research papers, and databases	sharing mechanism centering the NCAS	Resource sharing Center			3M
Make aware and involve university academics and interested scholars on current socio-economic research issues	Organize individual and collaborative project	a. Organize, communicate and conduct guest lectures	Director/ BOS/ Research Fellow/SAL	No of Events/02 No of Participants/40	0.8 M
Disseminate research Findings		b. Conducting Seminars on specific theme/current issues	Director/ BOS/ Research Fellow/SAL	No of meetings/ 04 No of workshop /01	1.8M
Encourage search for empirical evidence through aural history and socio-cultural interactions	ii. Scholarly discussions with eminent in the fields and traditional knowledge hub etc.	Conducting Academic/Professional panel discussions	Director/ BOS/ Research Fellow/SAL	No. of events/ 03	5M
	iii Preserving authentic/Traditional Knowledge related to "Humanities & Social sciences"	i Invite oral Historian/Traditional artisans information for discussion	Director/ BOS/ Senior Research Fellow	No. of events/ 02	3M
		ii. Record the Information (Audio & Video) with the permission of the invitees			

		ii. Upload to the E-library			
		iii. Disseminate Journal via Virtual platform			
Goal 06: Enhance capacities of the Administrative Staff of University system and other Professional Bodies					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Empower Administrative and Non-Academic staff of university system	Provide training/ update knowledge on professional and administrative skills	a. Conduct training programme on Business and Administrative writing for administrative staff	Director/ SAL ANM	No. of Events/3	Self-funded
		b. Conduct training programme on Procurements Procedures for administrative staff		No. of Events/2	
		c. Conduct workshops (Excel and other)		No. of Events/3	
		d. IT security/ Cyber Security		No. of Events/3	
		e. Using cyber space for archiving		No. of Events/3	
		Goal 07: Conduct training/ Proficiency/Efficiency programs for the Academic Support/ Non Academic Staff			
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
Empower Academic Support and Non-Academic staff of university system	Provide training for needy communities in the public/ private/ non-state sector education and	a. Organize a language Proficiency Course	Director	No of Events/ 2	No of Events/ 2
				No of Participants/50	No of Participants/50
		b. Organize Grooming Program Course		No of Events/ 1	No of Events/ 1

	vocational training			No of Participants/25	No of Participants/25
Goal 08- Develop Infrastructure of the NCAS Building Premises					
Objective	Strategy	Activity	Responsibility	KPI	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
To facilitate and provide feasible environment for research, administrative and learning activities conducted by the Center	Improve the quality of the existing building premises of the NCAS	i Obtain an inspection report and a BOQ from the certified providers.	Director SAR/ SAB/ TEC/ COM	Observe the progress and obtain the monthly progress report	10M (through Grants)
		ii. Call quotations for/ bids for procurement/ services			
		iii. Appoint TEC and obtain approval for necessary procurement/ services			
		iv. Award the work for the selected service provider			
	Provide better teaching-learning environment	Establish a new computer laboratory with Wi-Fi access	Director SAR/ SAB/ TEC/ COM		10M (through Grants)

Annexure I: Cadre Composition of NCAS

Annexure II: Revised Organogram