

UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM) University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

UMCSAWM-SL Program guide

The UNESCO - Madanjeet Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM) at University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka is pleased to announce the SAF-Madanjeet Singh Group scholarships for the two-year (full-time) degree programs to be undertaken at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka from April 2026 to April 2028. One candidate each from the eight SAARC countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) will be selected for the scholarship.

The degree program offered:

Master of Science Degree in Water Resources Engineering and Management (2026/2028)

The scholarship will cover: (a) Tuition fees, (b) Economy air travel from the scholar's country of residence within SAARC to Sri Lanka and back, (c) Monthly stipend based on the existing SAARC scholarship rate to cover board and accommodation (e) In-country travel, Medical insurance, and research expenses as per University rates.

Please find further information below and the application form on web page (<https://umcsawm.uom.lk/>).

Useful Information

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

The University of Moratuwa (UoM)-Sri Lanka, located at the heart of a vibrant and geographically well-connected city in the backdrop of a vast expanse of shimmering waters of the picturesque Bolgoda Lake, is the only Technological University in the country. The university presently caters for a total undergraduate population of approximately 10,500 students and about 1,200 postgraduate students and prides itself on having an excellent Engineering Faculty and being the only University in Sri Lanka to have Faculties of Architecture and Information Technology.

The Faculty of Engineering is the largest in the University of Moratuwa comprising 19 academic departments offering courses in 11 engineering disciplines. The courses offered have been designed based on years of solid industry experience and dynamic international perspectives to ensure that the students attain internationally accredited undergraduate and postgraduate engineering qualifications with an entrepreneurial dimension, also demonstrating distinctive strengths in education and research.

The UoM has a well-earned reputation for providing a satisfying student experience, academically and culturally. It admits outstanding undergraduate and postgraduate students for its academic programmes. UoM offers Sri Lanka's exclusive Engineering, Architectural, Quantity Surveying, Facilities Management, Town and Country Planning, Fashion Design and Product Development and Transport and Logistics Management degree programmes.

The UoM is one of the highest internationally ranked universities in Sri Lanka and the undisputed leader in engineering, architectural and technological education.

The vision of UoM is “to be the most globally recognised Knowledge Enterprise in Asia.” Within this vision, the immediate focus is to produce world-class graduates at the UoM. Hence, the aim of the University is to produce academically sound, self-confident, flexible and internationally recognized quality graduates who are able to hit the ground running from day one, and who can realise their true potential studying together and thereafter working together as professionals in Sri Lanka or any other international environment.

Being the largest Faculty, the Faculty of Engineering enforces the University mission by focusing to be the leading Knowledge Enterprise for technology and related disciplines in Asia by:

- Providing transformative education that nurtures the inquiring mind and develops skills for a diversity of challenges;
- Carrying out nationally/internationally relevant and high-impact research to expand the boundaries of knowledge;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating technology transfer;
- Providing expert services to the State, Industry and the Society as an Internationally positioned National University; and
- Contributing to sustainable, scientific, technological, social and economic development of Sri Lanka.

At the UoM, a student becomes part of a wonderful fraternity of talented youth, from all walks of life, diverse ethnicities and backgrounds, who are the best young minds in the country. While a student’s stay at the University will be academically challenging, the student will have a truly rewarding experience with numerous opportunities for social, cultural and sports activities within a stimulating and supportive environment to learn.

The University of Moratuwa welcomes students to an educational experience that is truly unique!





UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM), University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

The UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM) established in April 2013 attached to the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka is the newest member to join the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institutions of Excellence and a landmark in the Sri Lankan university history as the first international centre established to conduct fulltime postgraduate degree programmes.



The UMCSAWM has been established with the support of the South Asia Foundation (SAF), with the objective of promoting regional cooperation through South Asian Water Management Education. The Department of Civil Engineering, in collaboration with UMCSAWM, intends to offer Postgraduate Degrees and Diploma Courses in the field of Water Resources Management and Hydraulics

Engineering while offering fully paid Madanjeet Singh Scholarships (funded by SAF) to selected full-time participants from The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. The Centre will also conduct pioneer research in the areas of water management and water resources engineering with relevance to South Asian countries and accommodate full-time international students from SAARC countries, while full-/part-time positions will be available to local students.

The UMCSAWM offered the Master of Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma in Water Resources Engineering and Management programme commencing from August 2013, and taking a step ahead, the programme was revised and revitalised in 2014 incorporating more practical and field-oriented Project Based Learning/Design Thinking (PBL/DT) components in each module. The present distinct course, Master of Science Degree / Postgraduate Diploma in Water Resources Engineering and Management is offered starting from February 2015 (Third intake onwards), targeting Engineering graduates who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in water resources planning, engineering, management and related disciplines. The parallel Master of Science in Water Resources Management and Master of Water Resources Engineering and Management/Water Resources Management courses are introduced from 2024 intake onwards (not offered for SAF students).

The course has been carefully designed to teach water resources management in the context of the South Asian region and intends to provide the participants with a firm grounding in the principles, techniques, issues and practices of Water Resources Engineering and Management. This unique course is designed mainly for practising civil engineers and scientists to update their knowledge and keep abreast with recent developments in water resources management and hydraulic engineering fields.

The UMCSAWM shall have two parallel approaches to achieve its cardinal objective of regional cooperation - one through academic studies and the other through research activities. A multi-dimensional approach shall create a hub of scholars that specialize in Water Management studies in the SAARC region and other countries, and at the same time promote international convergence of Water Management expertise in Engineering, Irrigation, Hydrology, GIS, Environmental Sustainability, etc.



University of Moratuwa has newly built a magnificent three-storied building adjacent to the Civil Engineering Complex to host the Centre with partial support from the generous personal contributions from SAF Founder and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Late Shri Madanjeet Singh. In addition to the teaching facilities and common spaces presently available at the Department of Civil Engineering, this new Centre building provides dedicated space for all UMCSAWM and other students with two lecture rooms, a computer room, staff and student rooms, areas for research and self-study, space for individual/group work, a conference room, library space, administrative space, and other common areas.

Outdoor experimental areas are also available to demonstrate practical applications in three distinct water specialities, namely, Irrigation, Urban Storm Water Drainage, and Riverine and Estuary Ecosystems. These facilities will ensure extensive exposure and hands-on research experiences at an advanced level of application to the participants of all UMCSAWM programmes.



The UMCSAWM Premises, University of Moratuwa (above) and the unique learning experience at UMCSAWM based on in-class and field activities (below)



Courses offered at the UMCSAWM

Name of the degree programme(s)

M. Sc. in Water Resources Engineering and Management [2-year, Full-time]

Full title

Degree of Master of Science in Water Resources Engineering and Management

Abbreviated title

M. Sc. (WatResEng&Mgt) [Taught Course based on Coursework and Research]

Course Details

The M. Sc. course is designed to cater for candidates with engineering backgrounds, and with an interest in the ever-growing, diverse fields of water resources planning, engineering and management. The course content of the above programme has been carefully prepared to enhance the candidates' theoretical knowledge of design and practical applications while addressing various aspects pertaining to Water Resources Engineering and Management.

Teaching and learning methods are aligned to provide an integrated and interdisciplinary approach. Programme structure brings together the scientific study of water resources with practical planning and management skills, encouraging participants to study water management from a multi-disciplinary perspective and to seek integrated solutions. Effective use of computer software in water resources and watershed modelling, designing of hydraulic structures, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) related aspects have also been incorporated. Each module has assignments, design and management coursework with Problem Based Learning/Design Thinking (PBL/PBDT) components which help participating engineers/scientists to solve real-life problems related to Water Resources Engineering and Management. Improvement of communication and presentation skills is also achieved through seminars, coursework assignments and oral tests. The compulsory research project (for M.Sc. programs) is envisaged to provide a good opportunity for the candidates to develop their research skills.

Field visits, guest lectures and field measurement/experiment procedures are arranged for the participants on a regular basis to further enhance their learning experience and field exposure, offering them an opportunity to acquire field-oriented knowledge and practical, real-life experience very much needed to handle multifaceted issues in water resources management and water engineering related areas.

The two-year M. Sc. (full-time) program offered at the UMCSAWM with CW-Research has been designed to cater for the demand from professional engineers to advance their technical knowhow after gaining adequate experience in the field of engineering while getting exposed to the emerging advanced knowledge dimensions across a wide swathe of domains.

The total credit requirement is 60 for the program which is comparable with any other M.Sc. program worldwide.

This all-embracing program structure based on taught courses, research and especially with Problem Based Learning/Design Thinking (PBL/DT) approach common to all modules brings together the scientific study of water resources with practical planning and management skills, encouraging participants to study water management from a multi-disciplinary perspective and to seek integrated solutions.

The subjects offered would cover the main areas of;

• **Compulsory modules (28 Credits)**

- Advanced Surface and Groundwater Hydrology
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Planning and Management
- Research Methods for Water Resources Planning and Management
- Water Resources Project Planning and Management
- Environmental Engineering
- Advanced Irrigation Water Management for Food and Water Security
- River and Estuarine Engineering

• **Elective modules (12 Credits)**

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Options for Water Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
- Advanced GIS for Water Resources Management
- Advanced Wastewater Management Systems for Engineering Applications
- Coastal and Estuarine Engineering
- Computer Applications in Irrigation and Drainage
- Groundwater Engineering and Management
- Advanced Coastal Engineering and Management

Research Project (20 Credits)

- Supervised Research Project (for M.Sc.) relevant to the course for Master of Science Degree

Course Outline

The admissions of international students to the MSc courses are scheduled in April every year. The minimum duration of Master of Science Degree courses is two years (24 months) on a full-time basis or one year (12 months) on a full-time basis. The common core modules will be conducted together for both full-time and part-time participants while other compulsory modules and the electives will be offered separately. The part-time option is available only for local students. During the first 12 months, which is common to both groups, the students will follow a course of intensive lectures and attend seminars. Research activities for full-time (local and international) students will be conducted from Monday to Friday. The full-time students are expected to commence the research projects from the beginning of the course while the part-time students have the option of late commencement. For part-time (local) students and full-time students during the first year, lectures will be conducted usually on Saturdays and Sundays. On special occasions, especially when exchange/visiting lecturers are available from overseas, selected activities may be conducted on other days.

All taught courses are offered during the first 12-month period, which consists of three terms. In the first two terms, three subjects are taught per term with written examinations at the end of the term. During the third term, two subjects are offered with the written examinations at the end of the term. During these three terms, students will also engage in the relevant design coursework assignments and be continuously evaluated on their assignments, reports and seminars. Those who successfully complete all examinations are eligible to continue for

M. Sc. Degree or to obtain a Master's degree (for local students only). Those who register for an M. Sc. Degree need to carry out a research project in a specified area under the guidance of a supervisor(s). The research project has to be completed by the end of the fourth term and on completion, the results should be submitted in the form of a dissertation. On submission of the dissertation, a formal assessment of the research work will be undertaken in line with the University of Moratuwa rules and regulations.

Course Duration

Degree	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
*M. Sc. (Full Time/2-year)	18 months	48 months
Master of Degree (Part Time)	12 months	48 months

Course Fees - Tuition Fees

Local Applicants

Tuition Fees

- M. Sc. Taught [Full Time/2-year]: Rs. 450,000/=
- Master of Degree [Part Time/1-year]: Rs. 350,000/=

Other Fees

- Registration Fees: First year Rs. 1,000/= per year
- Examination Fee: Rs. 1,000/=
- Refundable Library Deposit: Rs. 2,500/= (per book)
- Non-Refundable Library Deposit: Rs. 2,000/= (per book)

Overseas Applicants

Tuition Fees & others

- M. Sc. Full time (SAARC Countries): US\$ 5,000
- Other Countries: US\$ 6,000

*Only this program will be considered for SAF scholarships.

Minimum Qualification(s) for admission to the courses at UMCSAWM

Eligibility Requirements

- 1.1 The eligibility requirements for the Masters Degree (SLQF-L10), constrained by the Department of Civil Engineering, subject to the minimum eligibility requirements specified in Section 2.2 of the By-law, as set out in the approved “Eligibility and Performance Criteria” will be generally used in advertising the course.
- 1.2 The selection of students for the Master's Degree (SLQF-L10) will be made by the Department of Civil Engineering, in accordance with one of the following extended eligibility requirements, approved by the Senate.
- 1.3 An applicant fulfils the minimum eligibility requirements to follow the prescribed course leading to the Degree of Master of Science, if he/she has:

- (a) The Honors Degree of Bachelor of Science of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in Civil Engineering or any other relevant field, as approved by the Senate;

OR

- (b) Any other Honours Degree of Bachelor of Science of Engineering from a recognized University in Civil Engineering or any other relevant field, equivalent to the Honours Degree of Bachelor of Science of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in a relevant field as judged by the Faculty, and as approved by the Senate;

OR

- (c) At least the Associate Membership of a recognized professional engineering institute in a relevant field, obtained through an academic route, with a minimum of one (01) year period of appropriate experience as judged by the Faculty and approved by the Senate;

AND

- (d) If English is not the medium of instruction in the first degree of the candidate, valid TOEFL (a minimum of 525 points in paper-based, 196 in computer-based, or 69 in internet-based test) or IELTS (a minimum of 5.5 in Academic Version) scores or equivalent.

Selections will be based on the minimum eligibility requirements above, qualifications and experience, and performance at the interview.

Application and Selection Procedures

1. Closing date for submission of applications for international candidates is **31st December, 2025**.
2. Candidates from SAARC countries who intend to apply for South Asia Foundation (SAF) scholarships should submit their duly completed applications (with all supporting documents and certified true copies of certificates) to the Secretariat, South Asia Foundation (SAF) Chapter in their respective country.

Please visit the SAF website: http://www.southasiafoundation.org/saf_contacts.htm for contact details (also provided below).
3. Candidates from SAARC countries (self-funded) or Non-SAARC countries should submit their duly filled applications (with all supporting documents and certified true copies of certificates) to the Course Coordinator (same as for local applicants).
4. South Asia Foundation (SAF) office in each country will pre-screen the applications based on the eligibility criteria mentioned herein and the names of the short-listed candidates from each SAARC country should reach the office of the Secretary, SAF Sri Lanka latest by **05th January 2026** through the SAF office in their respective country for further scrutiny and acceptance into the degree program at UMCSAWM/ University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
5. The final assessment of the selected candidates from SAARC countries will be done jointly by a selection committee from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa and UMCSAWM. Online assessment tests and/or telephonic/ Skype interviews with short-listed candidates may be arranged as required.
6. Based on the final assessment, a candidate may or may not be accepted into the program if SAF offices of the SAARC countries have not fulfilled the set eligibility criteria.
7. The right of acceptance or rejection of candidates nominated by SAARC countries into the UMCSAWM/University of Moratuwa degree program is with the UMCSAWM and University of Moratuwa.
8. The letter of acceptance or rejection into the scholarship program will be sent to the SAF office of the respective SAARC country for further conveyance to the individual candidate.

Contact details of SAF Chapters

1. Afghanistan: Mr. Hameedullah Arefi: arefi@safmail.org
2. Bangladesh: Md. Zakaria: zakaria@safmail.org
3. Bhutan: Mr. Nima Gyeltshen: nima@safmail.org
+975-17871411
4. India: Dr. Nihar Ranjan Das: nihar@safmail.org
+91-9911729698
5. Maldives: Mr. Ahmad Hamdhan: hamdan@safmail.org
+96-7904902
6. Nepal: Dr. Nishchal Pandey: nina@ntc.net.np
+977-9851058622
Mr. Ramesh Timasina: timasina@safmail.org
+977-9841737362
7. Pakistan: Ms. Marvi Mazhar: marvi@safmail.org
marvi.mazhar@gmail.com
+92 2135389023
8. Sri Lanka: Ms. Swinitha Perera: safsrilankachapter@gmail.com,
swinitha@safmail.org
+94-773858591/+94-11-2676630

Note: Applicants from Non-SAARC countries should directly contact the Course Coordinator through: umcsawm@uom.lk.

Please refer to the UMCSAWM webpage at: <https://umcsawm.uom.lk/> for further information on application procedures.

Documents to be Submitted

- Please submit duly filled application forms (Pages 1-3 of the application form) with confidential recommendations from two non-related referees (Pages 5-6 & 7-8) as instructed in the form.
- Please check whether you have attached the following with the application:
 1. Certificate of the Engineering Degree, clearly indicating the authority of awarding institute and dates
 2. Official Transcript/GPA sheet
 3. English Language Proficiency Certificate (if applicable) (TOEFL/IELTS)
 4. Job Experience Certificate from the Employer
 5. A copy of Citizenship ID card/valid passport
 6. Birth Certificate (English translation)
 7. Photograph and Copies of birth certificate & National Identity Card/valid Passport
 8. Recently updated curriculum vitae and a declaration indicating that the submissions are true and correct

Note: All copies submitted should be certified as true copies of the original documents either by a University Registrar, Legal Practitioner or Justice of Peace/Notary Public.

For candidates with organizational sponsorships, an original letter, on official letterhead, confirming sponsorship by the organization must be attached.

SAF Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarships available for studying at UMCSAWM

The South Asia Foundation (SAF) will offer (12) SAF Madanjeet Singh scholarships (based on gender equality) for the two-year (full-time) Master of Science in Water Resources Engineering and Management or Master of Science in Water Resources Management programmes offered by the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. The programme to be commenced in April 2025 will be conducted at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM) attached to the Department. Up to two candidates each from the eight (08) SAARC countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) will be selected for the scholarships.

The SAF scholarship will cover: (a) Tuition fees, (b) Economy air travel from the scholar's place of residence within SAARC to Sri Lanka and back, (c) monthly stipend of SLRs. 120,000/- based on the existing SAARC scholarship rate to cover board and accommodation and a one-time contingency grant of SLRs. 50,000/- upon arrival (e) nominal book allowance and for photocopying/printing (f) In-country travel facilities for academic/research purposes will be provided by the University or reimbursed in-part as per the existing rate.

Finding accommodation will be supported/coordinated by SAF Sri Lanka.