

The Graduateship Programme: As I See It

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The Graduateship Programme in Chemistry was started by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon in 1978. I started teaching this course 24 years ago, since 1984. The main objective of this course is to train those students who failed to gain

admission to the national universities as they were short of a few marks in their aggregates. These students may have done well in the subject of Chemistry but missed their opportunity for the want of some marks in the other subjects. This course could help such a student by offering an alternative, without incurring the heavy expenditure required for foreign education. As a result of the untiring efforts of the Institute of Chemistry in continuing with this course, colossal amounts of foreign exchange were saved through offering the opportunity for students over three decades. Today, the College of Chemical Sciences as the academic arm of the Institute of Chemistry has proved to be the producer of the largest number of chemists when compared to the total number of special graduates produced in this country.

The syllabus of the Graduateship Programme is comparable to that of the special degree in chemistry of any recognized university. All the courses are taught by university staff or by eminent personnel in the research institutions and the private enterprises in the country with recognized post-graduate qualifications. Final year examination papers are moderated and wetted by foreign examiners attached to universities in England.

The syllabuses of the Graduateship Programme revised periodically and as a result, a bulk of the course units of applied value *viz.* Polymer Chemistry, Biotechnology, Food Chemistry and Environmental chemistry have been introduced gradually. The concept of intermittent review and upgrading has been employed regularly to make sure that the course covers a full-fledged chemistry curriculum. This is to enable the Graduateship holder to successfully face all chemistry related problems in the context of all professional challenges.

The College of Chemical Sciences of the Institute of Chemistry is proud of our students' achievements

in post-graduate M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from local and foreign universities. It is a source of encouragement that the numbers of such post-graduate holders are increasing progressively. There are adequate facilities at the college itself for students to carry out research projects. Students who have shown competence in the relevant areas of chemistry are being selected to carry out their research projects under the guidance of senior staff members who are recognized experts in the field.

The number of bursaries and scholarships of the institute, which started since the inception, are growing annually. There are considerable numbers of gold medals, prizes and studentships awarded at various levels of the course, for excelling in performance. This has positively encouraged the students to apply themselves to their work. These prizes are awarded by well wishers of the course among the local public including the business sector. The availability of such awards has motivated the students and created an environment of healthy competition for the general upliftment of the standards.

Students who offer bio-science subjects and physical science subjects, when admitted to follow the graduateship course are given an opportunity to learn the branch that is not familiar to them. Classes in bio-sciences as well as mathematical sciences are held enabling them to fortify knowledge, filling the gaps. Moreover, introductory courses in management, e-commerce and financial management are conducted to impart knowledge in the fields enabling the students to fit into any business or entrepreneurial set up. This aspect of multi-faceted complementary education is unique to the graduateship course in Sri Lanka.

From the foregoing account, it is crystal clear as to how far the Institute of Chemistry has planned to raise the standards of the graduateship course to such a level of excellence; for the benefit of students as well as the nation at large. Students who are genuinely interested in gaining academic excellence in the field of chemistry are given every opportunity, while providing the background of flexibility to adopt themselves to the profession of their liking by the Institute and the College of Chemical Sciences. Those past students who were benefited by the institute and do well in different walks of life will undoubtedly carry this message to the next generations and give their support to the successful sustenance of the college.

Eligibility List of Licentiate Chemists - 2007

Mr. B M A D Basnayake
Ms. N P Navaratne

Ms. I L M Wickramasinghe
Ms. P M U D K Pethiyagoda

Ms. N D Herath