

Masters in Development Practice (MDP) at the University of Peradeniya

Information for Foreign Students

Partners: University of Peradeniya, Foundation for Environment, Climate & Technology, Earth Institute at Columbia University, Maldivian Ministry of Environment, and Open University of Sri Lanka

A new [Masters in Development Practice](#) (MDP) has been launched at the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the FECT, Columbia University, Open Universities and others starting in October 2011. The program is hosted by the Department of Economics at the University of Peradeniya. This flyer provides information for international students.

VISA's – International students can travel on a tourist visa prior to obtaining a student visa if they desire. Details are available at <http://www.immigration.gov.lk/>

A student visa gives residency rights. Registered international students at the University of Peradeniya are eligible for a student visa. International students may obtain a tourist visa to travel to Sri Lanka and convert it to student visa following registration at the MDP at University of Peradeniya.

The visa fee of Rs. 10,000 (approximately \$100) is waived once approval is obtained from the [Ministry of Higher Education](#). The MDP course has been approved by the [Ministry](#)

There are two categories of visit visas to Sri Lanka – tourist and business. A tourist visa is issued for a short period of time. Visa fee is approximately \$40

Requirements to apply for the Tourist Visa

[Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration](#) may issue a visa to you if it is satisfied that -

- I. You are “suitable to enter Sri Lanka”.
- II. Approval for the purpose for which you are entering Sri Lanka.
- III. Satisfied that you have adequate funds for your maintenance and return passage.
- IV. You hold a passport valid for the duration of MDP course from the date you enter.
- V. You are in possession of a written assurance (ticket) to return to the country of domicile or next destination.

Applying for Driving License in Sri Lanka

International driving licenses from overseas may be used for up to a year in Sri Lanka. Please check with [Department of Motor Traffic](#). Students as residents are eligible to be issued Sri Lankan driving licenses as well according to [official information](#). Unofficial information is available at <http://www.simonshareef.com/2011/02/convert-your-driving-license-to-sri-lanka-license/>

[The Automobile Association of Sri Lanka](#) provides a variety of services for the motorist. The MDP Coordinators can help you find further information.

Internet and Communication in Sri Lanka:

The fixed line communication service providers in Sri Lanka are [Sri Lanka Telecom \(SLT\)](#), [Suntel](#) and Lanka Bell. Mobile service providers are [Dialog](#), [Mobitel](#), [Hutch](#), [Airtel](#) and [Etisalat](#). Due to the competition, rates are affordable with a sms costing \$0.09 for international numbers and \$0.02 locally. Even if you have an overseas phone, it may be cheaper to obtain a sim card from a local provider.

For Internet access outside of the University, you can obtain ADSL services from fixed line providers and from cellular providers. The ADSL fees costs about \$28 per month unlimited access with a download speed of 2MB per second. The cost of a portable “dongle” which can be connected to a USB port is comparable in price and performance. Smart phones have access to 3G and CDMA networks. Internet Cafes are more expensive ranging up to \$2 per hour but are available in an increasing number of places.

Accommodation	Health Care	Transport
<p>The University is unable to provide accommodation to foreign students. MDP program may be able to help arrange accommodation while you look for a place. But students have access to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boarding houses: \$50*/month • Apartment: \$150*/month • Full House: \$250*/month <p>* Minimum cost</p>	<p>Students can get treatment from University Health Center located within the University premises.</p> <p>For further treatment both national and private hospitals are nearby.</p>	<p>For approximately \$60* students can arrange taxis from Katunayake International airport to the University of Peradeniya which is about 3 hours away and about 110 km.</p> <p>The fare for local public transport is much lower.</p>

What can you do when you are staying in Sri Lanka?

Here are some options:

Travel in Sri Lanka	Learn more languages
<p>Sri Lanka is endowed with plenty of places of interest from aesthetic, ecological, archaeological, and cultural sights.</p> <p>Some private websites are http://www.srilankatourism.org/ http://www.srilanka.travel/ http://goldensrilanka.com/</p>	<p>Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya</p> <p>Students can apply for an additional subject to the MDP curricular and follow the subject with other students in the University of Peradeniya.</p> <p>The University has an English Language Teaching Unit and a Department of English, Sinhala, Tamil, Arabic and Islamic Civilization, Classical languages, Pali and Buddhist Studies etc.</p> <p>http://www.arts.pdn.ac.lk/ www.arts.pdn.ac.lk/eltu/arts.html http://www.arts.pdn.ac.lk/eltu/contact.html</p> <p>There are private institutions in Kandy offering language courses</p>
<p>Information Technology facilities</p> <p>University of Peradeniya has its own computer unit which is open 24 hours a day. Student will get a private account with access to the Internet.</p> <p>University IT Center offers courses related to information technology. See http://www.ceit.pdn.ac.lk/</p> <p>MDP students shall have access to the computer lab of the Department of Economic and Statistics.</p>	<p>Theological Studies and Meditation</p> <p>The Kandy region is a center for religious activity (especially Buddhism). These include the Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA).</p> <p>http://www.siba.lk/ http://www.vipassana.com/ http://www.dhamma.org/</p>
<p>Library facilities</p> <p>University has one of the best libraries in Sri Lanka. It holds over 400,000 volumes in its collection. There is one main library and 8 branch libraries located across the campus.</p> <p>http://www.lib.pdn.ac.lk/</p>	<p>Cultural and Athletics at University of Peradeniya</p> <p>University students organize cultural and sport activities such as dramas at Open Air Theater, musical programs, university games, and film festivals. Students have privileges to use indoor and outdoor gymnasium for the physical activities.</p> <p>http://www.pdn.ac.lk/uop/cl/Cultural_activitiesn.html</p>

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