

VOLUME 25, 2025 NO. 01

PGIS NEWS

Activities and Progress of the Postgraduate Institute of Science
(PGIS), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



*We are
dedicated to
provide,
promote and
develop
higher
education
and research
in Science.*

2025

*The Pioneer
Postgraduate
Institute of Sri Lanka*



ISSN 1391 - 5754

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It is with great pride that I present this edition of the PGIS Newsletter, reflecting the academic, cultural, and community engagements that have shaped our institute in recent months. PGIS continues to thrive as a hub of postgraduate education, research, and innovation, while upholding values of unity, collaboration, and service.

The year commenced with the New Year Pirith Ceremony and Tea Gathering, reaffirming our sense of community and spiritual grounding. Our dedication to sustainability was exemplified through the successful completion of the Green Youth Project, a collaborative initiative with international partners that empowered youth in environmental stewardship.

Our students remain central to our mission. The Orientation Programme for MPhil and PhD students prepared new entrants to begin their academic journeys with confidence, while the Padura Evening provided a joyful platform for cultural expression and fellowship.

Several significant events enriched our calendar, including the Workshop on Studying in Japan for Advancing Science and Fostering International Collaboration, the Akalana Programme on Happy Working and Happy Living (focused on the well-being of staff, particularly non-academic members), and the Short Course on Research Design for Field Biologists conducted with international experts. Together, these initiatives strengthened academic rigor while also enhancing professional development and overall well-being within the PGIS community.

We also take pride in the success of the PGIS RESCON 2025 Pre-Conference Talks and ICMME 2025 Workshops, which created important platforms for dialogue and collaboration. The awarding of the PGIS Research Grants 2024 further reflected our commitment to supporting pioneering research across disciplines.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our staff, students, and collaborators for their invaluable contributions to PGIS. Together, we continue to advance science for the betterment of humanity.

With best wishes,

Prof. B.M.N.W.B. Balasooriya
Director
Postgraduate Institute of Science
University of Peradeniya

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01. PGIS NEW YEAR PIRITH CEREMONY AND TEA GATHERING

01/01/2025



The PGIS staff organized a heartfelt Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony and tea party to extend warm wishes for the New Year to all its members and the wider university community. To commence the occasion, the former Director of PGIS, Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, warmly welcomed everyone with New Year wishes.



Subsequently, the religious observance of Pirith chanting was initiated. The occasion saw the active participation of lecturers, staff, and students, reflecting the strong sense of unity and togetherness within PGIS.

Beyond its spiritual significance, the occasion served as a meaningful moment for reflection, remembrance, and the strengthening of bonds among the PGIS family.



Written by :
W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/
Temporary Instructor/ PGIS

02. THE GREEN YOUTH PROJECT

Commenced on 2023 - Concluded on January, 2025

The Green Youth Project, launched in 2023, was successfully concluded in January 2025.

The project was implemented at Sri Vimalabuddhi Primary School, Dangolla, Kandy, with

the aim of empowering local youth to take active roles in environmental education and sustainable community practices.

The project focused on training local children and youth through the Green Youth

Programme, establishing Green Youth club as a community-based organization for waste management and environmental education, and creating a collaborative partnership mechanism involving Green Youth, local government authorities, and the University of Peradeniya to address environmental challenges.



The Green Youth Project was conducted by the University of the Sacred Heart, Japan, and Keio University, Japan, in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The project was generously funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

As a key outcome of the project, a booklet documenting its process and achievements

was developed. You can access the booklet via the following link:

<https://kyosei.u-sacred-heart.ac.jp/en/srilanka-pj/>



03. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR CURRENT MPhil AND PHD STUDENTS

01/02/2025

The programme was held at the PGIS Auditorium from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, with the participation of approximately 80 MPhil and PhD students. It comprised five informative sessions designed to provide essential guidance relevant to the students' academic journeys. The sessions were as follows:

- Opening Remarks: The Director of PGIS, Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, delivered an introductory talk outlining the organizational and operational structure of PGIS.
- Navigating Your Research Journey: Prof. A. Pinidiyaarachchi discussed strategies for success in postgraduate studies, emphasizing how to effectively navigate the research process.
- Understanding Research: Prof. M. Ganehenege delivered a presentation on defining research, exploring various types of research, and explaining the scope and significance of a research study.
- Library Resources and Services: Ms. S. Weerasinghe, the Senior Assistant Librarian of the Science Library, introduced the library facilities, available resources, and services offered to students.
- Programme Overview and Policies: Dr. Rajitha Ranasinghe provided an overview of the postgraduate programmes, including academic policies and key guidelines.
- Young Researchers' Forum: The President of the PGIS Young Researchers' Forum briefly introduced the society, highlighted its annual events, and welcomed new students by collecting their details through a registration form.

At the end of the event, the IQAC of PGIS distributed a feedback survey among participants to gather their views and suggestions regarding the programme.

Written by : W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/Temporary Instructor/ PGIS



04. PADURA EVENING: A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP AT PGIS

07/02/2025

The Padura evening, organized by the Young Research Forum (YRF) of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) in collaboration with the Art Circle of the Faculty of Science, was held on the rooftop of PGIS. The event took place from 5.00 p.m. onwards and brought together nearly 100 participants, including PGIS staff, academic members, undergraduates, and postgraduate students.



The evening began with a motivational speech by the former Director of PGIS, Prof. K.D.C.M. Pitawala, who highlighted the importance of organizing such cultural events to foster connection and balance in academic life. Other attendees included Prof. Manawadevi Ganehenegge, the Head of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Susanthi Jayasinghe, and several other academic and administrative staff. The rooftop provided a festive ambiance for the musical performances by members of the YRF and the Art Circle with the creatively designed decorations.

Traditional Belimal and refreshments prepared by YRF members added a homely touch to the evening. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Amith Bandara, the outgoing President of YRF, who reflected on his experiences and contributions during his tenure. His leadership in organizing such events was warmly appreciated by all.

Written by : W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/Temporary Instructor/PGIS

Photography: Ayantha Dissanayake/ Perabeats



05. A WORKSHOP ON STUDYING IN JAPAN FOR ADVANCING SCIENCE AND FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

13/02/2025

An event organized in collaboration with the IDEC Institute, Hiroshima University, and the Board of Study in Environmental Science, Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, was successfully held at the PGIS Conference Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The session featured a lineup of distinguished speakers who shared their expertise on a range of environmental and ecological topics:

- Prof. Fumito Maruyama (Ph.D., Osaka University, Japan)
- Professor, Planetary Health and Innovation Science Center, IDEC Institute, Hiroshima University
- Talk: "Hidden Dynamics of Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria in the Environment"
- Prof. Oliver Illeperuma (Ph.D., University of Arizona, USA)
- Emeritus Professor, University of Peradeniya
- Talk: "Atmospheric Aerosols"
- Assistant Prof. So Fujiyoshi (Ph.D., Kyoto University, Japan)
- Assistant Professor, Planetary Health and Innovation Science Center, IDEC Institute, Hiroshima University
- Talk: "Ground to Sky Analysis of Atmospheric Microbial Distribution"
- Prof. Sudharma Yatigammana (Ph.D., Queen's University, Canada)
- Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya
- Talk: "Inland Freshwaters of Sri Lanka: Research Potential in a Globally Important Tropical Resource"
- Assistant Prof. Ishara Perera (Ph.D., Tohoku University, Japan)
- Assistant Professor, One Welfare International Research Center, Joint School of Veterinary Medicine, Yamaguchi University
- Talk: "Ph.D. Journey as an Aquatic Ecologist and Thriving as a Researcher in Japan"

Undergraduate, postgraduate students, along with several lecturers from relevant subject areas, attend the event. It provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between Sri Lankan and Japanese academic institutions, highlighting global environmental challenges and research opportunities.

Written by: Prof. Sudharma Yatigammana, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

06. AKALANA PROGRAMME ON HAPPY WORKING AND HAPPY LIVING

05/03/2025

The Board of Study in Chemical Sciences, in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya, organized the Akalana Programme on the 5th of March, 2025 to promote social harmony and the well-being of the university community.



Led by Deshamanya Gayan Randika — a certified training consultant, business leader, and motivational expert — the workshop provided practical insights and strategies for achieving work-life balance. Its interactive nature encouraged meaningful discussions and self-reflection, leaving participants inspired to foster positivity in their professional and personal lives.

Participants represented a wide cross-section of the University of Peradeniya, including different divisions, faculties, and departments, with both academic and non-academic staff, as well as PGIS students, engaging enthusiastically.



Special appreciation goes to Prof.B.M.N.W.B.Balasooriya, Director of PGIS; Prof. M.Y.U. Ganehenegge, Chairperson of the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences; and Dr. Sampath B. Alahakoon, Coordinator of the Akalana Programme, for their invaluable support in making the event a success.

Written by: Dr. Sampath B. Alahakoon/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya.

07. RESCON 2025 1ST PRE-CONFERENCE TALK ON INTERMITTENT FASTING, NEUROPLASTICITY, AND BRAIN HEALTH

28/03/2025

The PGIS RESCON 2025 Organizing Committee successfully inaugurated its Pre-Conference Series with a compelling public lecture by Professor Thiruma V. Arumugam, a globally recognized neuroscientist and Professor of Physiology at La Trobe University, Australia. The event took place at the PGIS Conference Hall on 28.03.2025, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and was held in hybrid mode, enabling broad participation from undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, academics, and the general public.



Professor Arumugam, who leads the Healthy Brain Ageing and Dementia Laboratory at La Trobe University, delivered an insightful talk titled "Intermittent Fasting, Neuroplasticity, and Brain Health." Drawing on cutting-edge research, he explored how intermittent fasting affects neuroplasticity and brain function, shedding light on the molecular mechanisms of neurodegeneration and cognitive aging. His talk emphasized the potential of dietary interventions to promote cognitive performance, mental well-being, and neuroprotection against age-related diseases such as stroke and dementia.

Key Highlights of the Session:

- A scientific overview of intermittent fasting and its physiological impacts
- Latest findings on neuroplasticity and cognitive decline
- Evidence-based insights on the relationship between diet, brain function, and aging
- A dynamic Q&A session, where participants engaged with Prof. Arumugam on practical and research-related questions

The session concluded with a relaxed tea reception, providing an opportunity for further discussion and networking among participants and the guest speaker.

This highly engaging lecture marked a strong beginning to the RESCON 2025 Pre-Conference Series, reaffirming PGIS's commitment to fostering public engagement with science and promoting awareness on timely health-related research.

Written by:

Dr. D.R.G.W.B. Ellepola/ Senior Lecturer,
Department of Zoology,
University of Peradeniya.

08. WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION IN SRI LANKAN SCHOOLS: CHALLENGES, INNOVATIONS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

02/04/2025



The Board of Study in Science Education of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) organized a special event for Education Directors, held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the PGIS. The event was designed to identify key challenges in science and mathematics education in Sri Lankan schools, while also showcasing innovative applications and exploring future directions to overcome existing barriers.



Esteemed members of the Science Education Boards of Study—including Prof. Sakunthala Yatigammana, Prof. Pushpa Vitharana, Prof. Sumedha Madawala, Prof. Priyanka De Silva, Prof. Champa Hettiarachchi, and Dr. Ashwani Amarasinghe—made significant contributions to the success of the event through their expertise and active participation.



The main objectives of the event were to:

- Discuss best practices in mathematics and science education within the Sri Lankan school system
- Evaluate research aimed at enhancing the quality of science and mathematics education
- Explore the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve teaching and learning in these subject areas



The event served as a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue, collaborative problem-solving, and the exchange of ideas to strengthen science and mathematics education across the country.

09. THE PGIS RESEARCH GRANTS 2024 AWARDING CEREMONY

10/05/2025

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) received a total of 14 applications for the PGIS Research Grants 2024. Following a thorough evaluation process, 12 applications were approved for funding.

To formally recognise the awardees, the PGIS Research Grant Awarding Ceremony 2024 was held on Friday, 9th May 2025, with the presence of Prof. Terance Madujith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

The PGIS Research Grant Committee approved the following 12 research projects:

	Grant No.	Principal Investigator	Title
1	PGIS/2024/01	Prof.W.A.I.P. Karunaratne	Insect pollinators and their role in pollinating watermelon in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka
2	PGIS/2024/02	Prof.Renuka Rathnayake	Soil Carbon Sequestration and Heavy Metal Distribution in Different Components of a Tank Cascade System in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka
3	PGIS/2024/03	Dr.Chaminda Wijesundara	Ecology and Conservation of Axis Deer (Axis axis) in Two Protected Areas in Sri Lanka
4	PGIS/2024/04	Dr.W.N.P. Rodrigo	Impact of Fixed Charge Transportation Problems on Supply Chain Management
5	PGIS/2024/05	Dr.N.P.S. Kumburegama	Environmental DNA (eDNA) Analysis for Fish Biomonitoring in Mangrove-Linked Lagoon and Estuarine Habitats of Kalutara and Galle Districts
6	PGIS/2024/07	Dr.R. Ranasinghe	Developing a Secure Cryptosystem with Rainbow Vertex Antimagic Coloring
7	PGIS/2024/08	Dr. V. Sivakumar	Assessment of Patient Dose During Digital Mammography Examinations and Formulation for establishing National Diagnostic Reference Level in Sri Lanka.
8	PGIS/2024/09	Prof.M.Y. Ganehenage	Transition Metal Schiff base Complexes as Potential Precursors for Metallodrugs
9	PGIS/2024/10	Dr.M.B. Wijesinghe	Portable Paper-Based Microfluidic Device for Electrochemical Detection of Lead, Cadmium and Arsenic in Food Samples
10	PGIS/2024/11	Dr.W.S.S. Gunathilake	Composite membranes of post-consumer poly(ethylene terephthalate) and natural substances for corrosion inhibition of stainless steel and mild steel
11	PGIS/2024/12	Dr.P.L .Dharmapriya	Decoding Petrogenesis, Serpentinization, and Biosignatures in Carbonated Ultramafic Rocks of Sri Lanka as a Mars Analog Site
12	PGIS/2024/13	Dr.S.G.J. Senarathna	Modelling Non-Constant Error Variance in Regression Using Copula-Based Techniques

09. THE PGIS RESEARCH GRANTS 2024 AWARDING CEREMONY (CONTD.)

10/05/2025



These projects reflect the diversity and depth of research conducted across multiple scientific disciplines at PGIS, underscoring the institute's commitment to advancing scientific inquiry and innovation in Sri Lanka.

Written by :

Dr. Lakshika S. Nawarathna/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Statistics and Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya.



10. SHORT COURSE ON RESEARCH DESIGN FOR FIELD BIOLOGISTS

19 - 24/05/2025

The Unit of Excellence in Biodiversity and the Board of Study in Plant Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, USA, conducted an intensive Short Course on Research Design for Field Biologists from 19th to 24th May 2025.

The course attracted a diverse group of both local and foreign participants, including postgraduate students, temporary demonstrators, young university academics, and professionals from the fields of conservation biology. The five foreign participants comprised doctoral and undergraduate students from different institutes in China.

The course aimed to empower field biologists to excel in scientific inquiry. It emphasized their critical role in understanding biodiversity and ecosystem changes. It provided participants with a solid foundation in designing and conducting field research that is rigorous and scientifically robust and capable of delivering actionable insights for conservation planning, management, and policy development. The curriculum was comprehensive and hands-on, incorporating lectures, discussions, group exercises, student presentations, field excursions, and computer-based tasks in data analysis and power analysis using tools such as R and G*Power.

Key learning objectives of this course included:

1. Identifying conservation needs such as inventorying, management, prediction, and education;
2. Achieving robust scientific inference (descriptive, causal, predictive, explanatory, and statistical) to meet conservation goals;
3. Gaining an understanding of various field research design types including descriptive, comparative, quasi-experimental, true experimental, and case studies;
4. Applying the hypothetical-deductive method to build fool-proof research designs;
5. Understanding core sampling design principles to maximize data accuracy and precision;
6. Identifying suitable statistical analyses for planned studies.

The program emphasized the integration of scientific research with conservation practice, aiming to foster a new generation of scientists capable of translating ecological data into meaningful conservation outcomes.

The course was coordinated by Dr. Nilmini Jayasena (Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences, University of Peradeniya) and Prof. Gehan Jayasuriya (Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya). The resource team featured a distinguished panel of international and local experts.

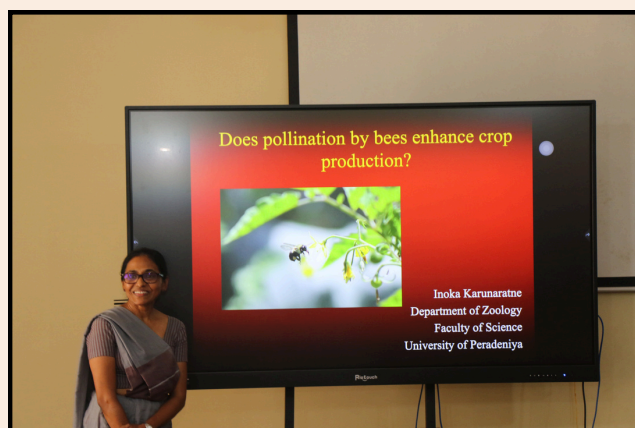


10. SHORT COURSE ON RESEARCH DESIGN FOR FIELD BIOLOGISTS (CTD.)

19 - 24/05/2025

The main resource person was Professor Kathryn Sieving, a professor at the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation of the University of Florida. Prof. Sieving conducted a similar workshop at the PGIS in 2012, and has also taught research design for postgraduate students at the University of Florida for more than 25 years. Her doctoral student, Mr. Suyash Sawant, also in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, U.S.A. assisted with conducting group work, discussions, and some lectures.

In addition, eminent field researchers in Sri Lanka were invited to share their experience, ideas, and philosophy with the participants. Thus, Professor Emeritus Nimal Gunatilleke (Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya), Prof. Thilanka Gunaratne (Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya), Prof. Inoka Karunaratne (Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya), Professor Emeritus Sarath Kotagama (Department of Zoology and Environment Science, University of Colombo), Prof. Sampath Seneviratne (Department of Zoology and Environment Science, University of Colombo), Dr. Asanga Wijetunga (Department of Biological Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka) and Dr. Kanishka Ukuwela (Department of Biological Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka) delivered lectures on diverse topics of field research and conservation in the Sri Lankan context and participated in discussions with the participants.



10. SHORT COURSE ON RESEARCH DESIGN FOR FIELD BIOLOGISTS (CTD.)

19 - 24/05/2025

Participant feedback on the workshop was very positive, and many of them felt that it will benefit them immensely in fulfilling research goals. Some comments from students were: "This course has guided us into the right path in many marvellous ways when it comes to planning research. I would highly recommend it to anyone"; "As a budding scientist, ecologist, I was given a deep perspective of research design with very practical examples"; "Even though I have done several studies, this course finally gave me the idea of how to design research in a perfect way"; "Really valuable course! Designing research and choosing relevant statistical analysis was the hardest part in my educational journey. This course cleared my path."; "The knowledge shared by Katie and Suyash was amazing."; "The guest speaker sessions were one of the highlights of the course for me. Their passion and knowledge, lecturing styles were truly inspiring."; "I enjoyed listening to a diverse set of research work done by experts. It was fascinating".

This collaborative international program has made a significant contribution to strengthening the research capacity of emerging scientists and conservation professionals in Sri Lanka and beyond, equipping them with essential tools for impactful ecological and conservation research. It is hoped to enhance links between the Universities of Peradeniya and Florida, and conduct more workshops of this nature in the future.

Written by:

Prof. Gehan Jayasuriya/ Professor, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Nilmini Jayasena/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. Kumudu Wijesooriya/ Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.



II. AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON QUALITY ASSURANCE CONDUCTED FOR PGIS STAFF

23/05/2025

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, recently organized an informative session on Quality Assurance in Higher Education for its staff. The programme was conducted by the Director of PGIS with the aim of enhancing awareness of the importance, procedures, and impact of maintaining a robust quality assurance (QA) system within the institute.

This session served as a vital step in aligning the non-academic community with the institutional vision of continuous improvement and excellence in postgraduate education. It emphasized the crucial role that every staff member plays in upholding and supporting quality standards, particularly in administrative and operational processes that directly affect academic delivery and student experience.



The Director highlighted the core principles of the QA framework adopted by the PGIS, elaborating on internal mechanisms such as documentation, performance evaluation, feedback collection, and compliance with national and international benchmarks. Attendees were briefed on how effective quality assurance contributes to:

- Enhancing institutional credibility and academic reputation
- Streamlining administrative processes
- Improving student satisfaction and learning outcomes
- Strengthening accountability and transparency
- Supporting institutional accreditation and external evaluations.

The session encouraged open discussion, allowing staff to clarify doubts and share ideas on how they can individually and collectively contribute to quality enhancement initiatives. The programme concluded with a call to action for the non-academic team to take proactive roles in ensuring PGIS continues to deliver world-class postgraduate education.

This initiative reflects PGIS's commitment to fostering a culture of quality across all its operations.

12. ICMME 2025 1ST PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHERS

13/06/2025



The pre-conference workshop on Professional Development for Mathematics Teachers was conducted in blended mode on 13th June, 2025 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya. The workshop consisted of sessions on block-based programming for teaching mathematics, inquiry-based learning and metacognition in mathematics teaching, and interactive probability theory.



Prof. Oi-Lam Ng, Dr. Huiyan Ye, Prof. Wasantha Daundasekera, Prof. Walter Senevirathne, Dr. Kavinda Wijethunga, and Ms. Thishani Bandaranayake participated as resource persons.

Approximately 120 mathematics teachers from across the island took part in the workshop, which was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.



Written by:

Dr. T.H.K.R. De Silva/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. A.M.R.S. Bandara/ Senior Lecturer, Science Education Unit, University of Peradeniya.



13. RESCON 2025 2ND PRE-CONFERENCE TALK ON NAVIGATING ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

19/06/2025

As part of its ongoing Pre-Conference Talk Series, the PGIS RESCON 2025 Organizing Committee successfully hosted its second session titled “How to Navigate Through the Academic Challenges” on the 19th of June 2025, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the PGIS Conference Hall.

This engaging and motivational seminar was delivered by Prof. Ajith Karunarathne, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Saint Louis University, USA. Renowned for his interdisciplinary research and mentorship, Prof. Karunarathne shared valuable personal and professional insights into managing the many demands of academic life.

The session addressed the growing intensity of academic pressure faced by students and early-career academics in today’s competitive global landscape. Drawing from real-life experiences, Prof. Karunarathne offered practical strategies to overcome procrastination, maintain motivation, and build resilience. Key themes included:

- The impact of academic stress on mental health and performance
- Effective time management and prioritization techniques
- Setting realistic goals and maintaining discipline
- Dealing with failure and rejection through frameworks for resilience and self-reflection
- Exploring career planning and future academic pathways

The seminar’s central message was one of empowerment and inspiration: to help attendees harness their full potential, not only for academic success but also for personal fulfillment. The talk emphasized the importance of self-awareness, motivation, and healthy coping strategies for thriving in a demanding academic environment.

This event was yet another highlight of the RESCON 2025 Pre-Conference Series, underscoring the PGIS’s commitment to fostering holistic development among students and researchers through knowledge-sharing and mentorship.

Written by: Dr. D.R.G.W.B. Ellepola/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.



14. ICMME 2025 2ND PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON ANALYSIS CLASSES OF NONLINEAR BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS

02-03/07/2025

The two-day pre-conference workshop on Analysis of Classes of Nonlinear Boundary Value Problems was held successfully on 2nd and 3rd July, 2025.

The workshop was conducted online by Prof. Ratnasingham Shivaji, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) for the Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Mathematics. Approximately 60 local and international participants took part in the workshop.

Written by:

Dr. T.H.K.R. De Silva/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. A.M.R.S. Bandara/ Senior Lecturer, Science Education Unit, University of Peradeniya.

The poster is for the International Conference on Mathematics and Mathematics Education - 2025, featuring a pre-conference workshop. The workshop title is "ANALYSIS OF CLASSES OF NONLINEAR BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS". It lists six topics: Introduction to Boundary Value Problems, Reaction-Diffusion Models and Steady States, A Quadrature Method, Topics in Functional Analysis, Fixed Point Methods in Solving Boundary Value Problems, and The Method of Sub and Super Solutions. The speaker is Prof. Ratnasingham Shivaji from UNCG. The workshop is on July 2nd and 3rd, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 09:00 pm via Zoom. It includes a QR code for registration, contact information for Dr. T.H.K.R. De Silva and Dr. A.M.C.U.M. Athapattu, and a pre-requisite of introductory courses in Differential Equations and Real Analysis.

International Conference on Mathematics and Mathematics Education - 2025

Pre - Conference workshop on

"ANALYSIS OF CLASSES OF NONLINEAR BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS"

- **Topic 1** Introduction to Boundary Value Problems
- **Topic 2** Reaction-Diffusion Models and Steady States
- **Topic 3** A Quadrature Method
- **Topic 4** Topics in Functional Analysis
- **Topic 5** Fixed Point Methods in Solving Boundary Value Problems
- **Topic 6** The Method of Sub and Super Solutions

pre-requisite : Introductory courses in Differential Equations and Real Analysis

2nd and 3rd of July, 2025

6:00 pm - 09:00 pm
(Online Workshop)

Via **zoom**

REGISTER NOW

Click on this QR code to Register

About Speaker

Prof. Ratnasingham Shivaji
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)

Ratnasingham Shivaji is a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. He currently serves as the H. Barton Excellence Professor of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is also a W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Mississippi State University.

Free Registration

Register before 30th June, 2025

Contact us:

Dr. T. H. K. R. De Silva - +94 71 837 9386
Dr. A.M.C.U.M. Athapattu - +94 77 922 6491

More info:
<http://www.pgjs.pdn.ac.lk/icmme2025/>

15. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (ICMME-2025)

04 - 05/07/2025

The Fourth International Conference on Mathematics and Mathematics Education (ICMME 2025) was successfully held from 4th to 5th July, 2025 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. ICMME 2025 was a unique event where mathematicians and mathematics educators from Sri Lanka and around the world brought together to discuss their research, share knowledge, and foster collaborations.



A total of 50 abstracts were presented at the conference under two themes: Mathematics and Mathematics Education. The inaugural ceremony of the conference was held on 4th July 2025 and was graced by Prof. R.W. Pallegama, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Mr. B.L.K. Kishore, Second Secretary (Consular, Visa, Passport & Commercial) at the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy, Sri Lanka.



Prof. Suzanne Lenhart, from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, delivered the keynote address titled "Natural System Management: A Mathematician's Perspective". Prof. Ratnasingham Shivaji, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presented a plenary lecture on "Analysis of classes of landscape ecological models", and Prof. Oi-Lam NG from the Chinese University of Hong Kong delivered a plenary lecture on "Mathematics in the Digital Age: How Computational Thinking Drives Transformative Learning".



15. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (ICMME-2025) (CTD.)

04 - 05/07/2025

ICMME 2025 concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering collaboration between mathematicians and educators, paving the way for the continued growth of research on mathematics and mathematics education both locally and internationally. The conference was generously supported by Bank of Ceylon (BOC) and the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation (SLIC).

Written by:

Dr. T.H.K.R. De Silva/ Senior Lecturer,
Department of Mathematics, University of
Peradeniya.

Mr. A.M.R.S. Bandara/ Senior Lecturer, Science
Education Unit, University of Peradeniya.



16. THE 28TH WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING

12 - 13/07/2025

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), in collaboration with the Board of Statistics and Computer Science as well as BoS Mathematics, successfully organized a two-day workshop tailored for postgraduate students specializing in Computer Science, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology, Applied Statistics, and Industrial Mathematics. The event drew the participation of approximately 155 students.

The programme commenced with an introductory overview delivered by Dr. Jayampathi Herath, Senior Lecturer and member of the IQAC-PGIS, followed by a welcome address from Prof. N.W.B. Balasooriya, Director of PGIS. Mrs. Ishra Iqbal, President of the Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) and a PhD student at PGIS, shared insights on YRF activities and warmly welcomed new students to the society. Membership enrollment forms were also distributed during her address.

Scientific sessions on the first day and the morning of the second day were held at the PGIS Auditorium. On the second day afternoon, participants engaged in interactive group sessions conducted simultaneously at four venues: the PGIS Auditorium, Conference Hall, and two lecture rooms. A detailed schedule of the sessions, along with the names of the respective resource persons, is provided below. To gather participants' feedback, evaluation forms prepared by the IQAC, PGIS were distributed at the end of the programme.

PGIS also arranged morning refreshments for all participants, resource persons, and the organizing committee. Special appreciation is extended to the participating students, resource persons, the YRF President, and the dedicated PGIS staff whose collective efforts ensured the success of this event.

Session	Facilitator
Day 1 : Foundations of Scientific Writing	
Session 1 : Structure and Layout of a Scientific Thesis	Prof. S.R. Kodituwakku
Session 2: Writing Effective Titles and Abstracts	Prof. R.D. Yapa
Session 3: Introduction and Literature Review	Dr. Ayesha Jayasinghe
Session 4: Computer-Aided, AI-based Literature Survey & Referencing Tools ((Zotero/Mendeley, etc.)	Dr. Sachith Abeyesundara
Session 5: Scientific Writing for Conferences and Journals in Computer Science	Dr. O.E. Dayarathna
Session 6: Research Ethics, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity in Writing	Prof. S.H.P. P. Karunaratne
Session 7: Results, Discussion, and Conclusions – How to Communicate Findings Effectively	Dr. H.A. Usoof

16. THE 28TH WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING (CONTD.)

12 - 13/07/2025

Session	Facilitator
Day 2 :	
Session 8: Writing Materials & Methods in Computer Science Research (including Algorithms)	Dr. Hemalika Abeysundara
Session 9: Writing Abstracts, Introductions, Other Relevant components and wrap-up session (Group session)	
Group A	Dr. Upul Jayasinghe
Group B	Dr. Gayan Bowatte
Group C	Dr. Jagath Senarathne
Group D	Dr. Damayanthi Herath



Written by : W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/Temporary Instructor/ PGIS

17. CONFERENCE ON BRIDGING RESEARCH TO ADDRESS WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN EMERGING NATIONS

17-18/07/2025

Two-day international conference was successfully held to bring together researchers from Sri Lanka and abroad, aiming to translate cutting-edge research into practical solutions for pressing water and environmental challenges faced by emerging nations. The event provided a dynamic platform for visiting researchers to engage with local scientists and engineers in addressing key issues such as water sustainability, water quality protection, and environmental conservation—particularly in the context of climate change, agricultural sustainability under water-stressed conditions, rapid industrialization, and frequent natural disasters such as floods and droughts in Sri Lanka.

The conference featured a series of insightful presentations delivered by both international and local researchers, complemented by interactive panel discussions conducted in a workshop format. The workshop sessions were centered around five core themes:

1. Local and regional water and environmental challenges
2. Climate change, sustainability, and decision-making tools
3. Water supply
4. Environmental protection
5. Natural hazards

The event concluded with the preparation of a comprehensive summary report and the proposal of a joint journal article, with the aim of sharing the outcomes with the wider scientific community and relevant stakeholders involved in water management, environmental protection, and policy development.

18. THE 86TH GENERAL CONVOCATION – 2025

22-23/07/2025



The 86th General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya, one of the most significant events in the university calendar, was ceremoniously held on the 22nd and 23rd of July 2025 at the University Gymnasium. The convocation was conducted in four sessions over two days.



The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) held its graduation during the second session on the first day (22nd July 2025). A total of 288 PGIS students who successfully completed their postgraduate programmes were awarded their degrees during this session. Graduates represented a wide range of academic disciplines across the postgraduate diploma, M.Sc., M.Phil., and Ph.D. programmes offered by the institute.



Graduates also received a feedback survey to share their insights contributing to the continuous improvement of postgraduate education at PGIS.

Photographs by : Perabeats Insights



18. THE 86TH GENERAL CONVOCATION – 2025 (CTD.)

22-23/07/2025

List of the Graduates

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

List of Doctor of Philosophy (8)

Biomedical Sciences (1)

Ms. Saseevan S

Chemical Sciences (1)

Ms. Nadheesha M K F

Environmental Science (1)

Mr. Bandara U G C

Mathematics (1)

Ms. Sahabandu C W

Plant Sciences (1)

Ms. Lakmali W G M

Science Education (1)

Ms. Narangoda N W L

Zoological Sciences (2)

Mr. Jayatilaka P S

Ms. Herath J M M K

List of Master of Philosophy (21)

Biomedical Sciences (1)

Ms. Bandara W R U A

Chemical Sciences (3)

Mr. Wijerathna A G C N

Ms. Ulpathakumbura B S K

Ms. Wadasinghe R R

Earth Sciences (4)

Mr. Sameera K A G

Mr. Sandaruwan G B C

Mr. Weedagama W L A C I

Ms. Rathnayake R M I M

Environmental Sciences (1)

Ms. Bandara P M C J

Physics (6)

Mr. Kumarasinghe R K K G R G

Mr. Gunathilake S M S

Mr. Farhan M S M

Mr. Medagedara A D T

Mr. Welarathna W D S D

Ms. Weerasinghe M I U

Plant Sciences (2)

Ms. Karunarathna T C M F

Ms. Dissanayaka D M H R

Mathematics (1)

Mr. Chandrasiri A M P

Statistics and Computer Science (1)

Ms. Duwarahan J

Zoological Sciences (2)

Ms. Heiyanthuduwege D S D

Ms. Ekanayake E M D

List of Master of Science (95)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (1)

M.Sc. In Clinical Biochemistry (1)

Ms. Lenagala A S

Chemical Sciences (7)

M.Sc. In Analytical Chemistry (3)

Ms. Keerthisinghe K M S M

Mr. Kodikara K A M

Mr. Rathnayaka R M G T

M.Sc. In Industrial Chemistry (1)

Mr. Wijerathna P R G

M.Sc. In Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (3)

Ms. Kanthage S A

Mrs. Perera A W N D

Ms. Kulathunga H W U

Earth Sciences (41)

M.Sc. In Disaster Management (7)

Ms. Karunarathna, G G M R

Mr. Bandara R P M T A S

Ms. Rathnayake R M K E

Ms. Jayasekara A J M S K A

Mr. Ranathunga A C

Ms. Ranasinghe R A M

Ms. Kumari E D I

M.Sc. In Engineering Geology and Hydro-geology (9)

Mr. Jeewantha H J M A

Mr. Harankahawa S B

Ms. Prasadani H M

Mr. Rankoth R P I T

Mr. Jayawardana A G A

Mr. Hemarathne P M S

Ms. Herath H M T L

Mr. Jayanath M G S

Mr. Nawarathna N C S

M.Sc. In Gemmology and Industrial Minerals (3)

Mr. Athukorala P

Mr. Subasingha P D A P

Mr. Poovathingal E G

M.Sc. In GIS & Remote Sensing (14)

Ms. Arulnesan P

Mr. Gunathilaka W T D K M A

Mr. Indika K K K

Ms. Wijenayaka A K U

Mr. Rathnayake R M P B

Mr. Gunathilaka L H M C

Mr. Wickramasinghe W A R

Ms. Mayuri K K G P

Ms. Nirmanee K G S

Mr. Kumar J

Mr. Karalliyadda J M I

Mr. Amarasiri M S S

Ms. Lakshani B I

Ms. Wijesinghe P A P D C

18. THE 86TH GENERAL CONVOCATION – 2025 (CTD.)

22-23/07/2025

M.Sc. In Water Resources Management (8)

Mr. Bandara R B D L
Mr. Kodikara Arachchi M H
Ms. Goonathilake M D S W
Ms. Herath H M A M
Ms. Ranathunga R M A U P
Mr. Athaud, E A R P M B
Ms. Dhananjaya A M
Mr. De Zoysa G C C K

Environmental Science (3)

M.Sc. In Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management (1)

Mr. Jayaweera G G G S

M.Sc. In Environmental Science (2)

Mr. Wijethunga H N S
Ms. Illangakoon W V K

Physics (5)

M.Sc. In Medical Physics (1)

Ms. Kosgallana K D I N

M.Sc. In Physics of Materials (4)

Mr. Hapuarachchi H A M M
Ms. Wickramasinghe G C
Mr. Alahakoon A M B S
Mr. Rajakarunaratne R D M A C B

Plant Sciences (1)

M.Sc. In Medical Microbiology (1)

Mr. Chathuranga K D K K

Science Education (9)

M.Sc. In Science Education (9)

Mr. Suman A
Ms. Solangarachchi S A G U
Ms. Weerasinghe U G P
Ms. Samarakoon S M J M M
Mr. Hassan S M
Mr. Siyath M N M
Ms. Sutharshini V
Ms. Waidyathilake D P
Mr. Kumara L P K L

Statistics and Computer Science (21)

M.Sc. In Applied Statistics (2)

Ms. Chathurangi D H P
Ms. Mahanayake K M L K

M.Sc. In Computer Science (15)

Ms. Manathunga A N D S
Ms. Samaradiwakara S R M A M
Ms. Rushda M U F
Ms. Thamarasee K G D
Ms. Dampalessa D R C G K
Mr. Liyanaarachchi K L P P
Ms. Premalal U A D I
Mr. Vigneshwaran P
Ms. Satheeskumar T
Ms. Thavarasa, S
Ms. Hewage H D S S
Ms. Liyanage T D P L
Mr. Sripiranavan Y
Mr. Widyaratna W M A P
Mr. Perera K S M

M.Sc. In Information Technology (4)

Mr. Muhandiram R D M S
Mr. Razith S M M S
Mr. Amarasinghe A T I
Mr. Jayawardhana R S K

Zoological Sciences (7)

M.Sc. In Applied Epidemiology (7)

Mr. Amarasingha A M C J
Ms. Karunaratna E J N
Mr. Perera T A P
Ms. Jumana O M J F
Ms. Kumari KCN
Ms. Yatiwelle YRSEWBWMRSG
Ms. Somasiri B V S L

List of Masters (164)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (10)

Master of Clinical Biochemistry (2)

Ms. Muthukuda M A C L
Ms. Rathnayake C H

Master of Experimental Biotechnology (8)

Ms. Agalawatta D I K
Ms. Ali F A
Ms. Devavarsha G
Ms. Kularathna K M S A
Ms. Kumari T W A E N
Mr. Samarakoon D M B K
Ms. Sinduja K
Ms. Somarathna K T A G

Chemical Sciences (20)

Master of Analytical Chemistry (9)

Mr. Premarathna K K D T P
Ms. Hafza A H F
Ms. De Silva R S
Mr. Perera K I S
Ms. Abeykoon A G S N
Ms. Jayasundara J M S K
Ms. Premarathne I K A P K
Ms. Jayasundara J M P D
Mr. Rathnayaka R M G T

Master of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (11)

Ms. Weerasekara W M R T C B
Ms. Wijeratne M G L A M
Ms. Amarasekera A E
Ms. Bandara P B D D
Ms. Herath H M T L
Ms. Marasinghe U G H R
Ms. Ranwala R D U C
Mr. Rathnayake R M K M G
Mr. Narampanawa N H M M D
Mr. Gunarathna H M N P
Ms. Karunaratne R M S K

Earth Sciences (40)

Master of Disaster Management (11)

Ms. Abeyrathna K H M P S
Ms. Bandara M M N C
Mr. Sujeewan N
Mr. Janaka R M
Mr. Jayathma W A N
Mr. Jayawardana H A D A K
Ms. Amarasena Y A P
Mr. Subaideen S L

18. 86TH GENERAL CONVOCATION – 2025 (CTD.)

22-23/07/2025

Ms. Wijerathna W P D C K
Mr. Dharmasena T M
Ms. De Silva I A N C

Master of Engineering Geology and Hydro-geology (7)

Mr. Prabhath S W S
Mr. Naindu L L D
Mr. Herath H M H H
Ms. Abeysinghe A M A M
Mr. Tharinda K L K
Mr. Sandaruwan P G U
Mr. Chamara R A D

Master of GIS & Remote Sensing (22)

Mr. Berugodaarachchi B A I S
Mr. Priyankara J G C I
Ms. Marasinghe R
Mr. Bandara H D C
Ms. Dissanayake M K N P K
Mr. Weerawardhena W P B P
Mr. Tissera, P M R
Mr. Balasooriya B K K
Ms. Chandrarathna T G L A
Ms. Swarnamali M M N
Mr. Gunasekara W A T N
Ms. Jayamali K R P
Mr. Bulathgama B W A
Mr. Kaduwela K P W R K B
Ms. Sanmuganathan R
Mr. Jasikaran S
Ms. Fonseka K I D
Ms. Fernando W T J
Ms. Poornima A M N S
Mr. Bandara J M D N
Mr. Jayasooriya S P N D
Mr. Deshapriya S V R

Environmental Science (17)

Master of Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management (5)

Ms. Kumari W M C C
Ms. Shiromani M K S
Mr. Athurupana A N P W M R C P
Ms. Chathurangi P A D P
Ms. Jayashanthi K C

Master of Environmental Science (12)

Mr. Asmil M A M
Ms. Herath H M S K
Mr. Banda H M A R S
Ms. Gamage G D M T N
Ms. Gunapala P K R N
Ms. Jayathunga R G M K
Ms. Meruja S
Ms. Perera A A S D
Ms. Ponnuthurai N
Mr. Regivoltan A
Ms. Wimalasiri M B M
Ms. Harshani H A T

Mathematics (3)

Master of Medical Physics (2)

Ms. Jayasinghe T C
Mr. Sudam H A

Master of Physics of Materials (1)

Ms. Karunarathne G K G A K

Plant Sciences (12)

Master of Medical Microbiology (12)

Ms. De Silva K D H S M S
Mr. Jayaweera A L S
Ms. Kalansooriya U V
Ms. Dias H C
Ms. Gunasinghe M M U N
Mr. Bandara K W P B T
Ms. Senavirathne K M S M K
Ms. Jeyaraja A
Ms. Keerthiga T
Ms. Ratnayake D R A
Ms. Nirosheney B
Ms. Thilakarathne H M R M

Science Education (8)

Master of Science Education (8)

Ms. Hashana M H F
Ms. Jayasundara A A D
Ms. Pradeepa S
Ms. Gunarathna P L A K

Ms. Rajapakshe A D H M
Ms. Dassanayake R M M A
Ms. Fernando B A S
Ms. Dilhani B W G I

Statistics and Computer Science (52)

Master of Applied Statistics (7)

Ms. Prasanthika K K M N
Ms. Manawadu M A N
Ms. Hemachandra D K
Ms. Abeyrathna H M T U
Ms. Disanayaka G K G S P
Ms. Jayawardena H G L
Ms. Somasinghe D G M M

Master of Computer Science (16)

Ms. Bandaranayake H M I
Mr. Hathurusinghe H A D D N
Ms. Kulasooriya N K D P
Ms. Amarasinghe S S
Mr. Gunarathne K M T B
Mr. Safras B M
Ms. Tharmakunasingam P
Mr. Fernando N D L M
Ms. Jayasinghe K C
Ms. Jayawardhana S M M S
Mr. Pathirana H P D P
Mr. Samarasinghe A
Ms. Selvendran A
Mr. Dissanayake D M Y P
Mr. Mataraarachchi N G
Ms. Baduge D B K E

Master of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (14)

Mr. Ekanayake S A
Mr. Gunarathna M S
Mr. Gunarathne H M S T
Mr. Hassan F M M
Mr. Imran M I
Mr. Madushan U N V
Ms. Marcelline S N
Mr. Mohamed A L A S
Ms. Ranasinghe P G N S
Ms. De Silva H S A
Ms. Thilakarathna H A N
Ms. Wijesuriya W M R M
Ms. Jayathilake A M I C K
Mr. Ranasooriya U E

18. THE 86TH GENERAL CONVOCATION – 2025 (CTD.)

22-23/07/2025

Master of Information Technology (15)

Ms. Abeysinghe A M S
Ms. Rupasinghe R A S N
Mr. Perera K T C
Ms. Bokalawella P K
Ms. Mohideen F S
Ms. Kulawansha W M H M
Mr. Jayasinghe J H P B
Ms. Ratnayake M A A H
Ms. Sama A M A M
Mr. Prasanga W C
Ms. Ranasinghe P A W W G K A
Ms. Jayasekara K K
Ms. Kirushanth A
Mr. Shantha B R G M N
Ms. Premadasa S D



Zoological Sciences (2)

Master of Applied Epidemiology(2)

Ms. Rajakaruna A H C S
Ms. Wimalasena I G W S



Written by : W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/Temporary Instructor/ PGIS

19. THE 29TH WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING

26-27/07/2025

This hybrid two day workshop was primarily organized by the PGIS for Master's students who registered in 2023 in the Analytical Chemistry, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environmental Management, Water Resources Management, Gemmology & Industrial Minerals, and Science Education as well as the Master's students who registered in 2024 for: GIS and Remote Sensing, Medical Physics, Physics of Materials, and Applied Epidemiology and the MPhil/PhD students who registered under any Board of Study (except Statistics and Computer Science, and Mathematics) who were not previously offered this workshop. Altogether around 215 participated for the event and most of the students joined at the PGIS in person and a few excused students due to a permissible reason had a chance to join the event in virtual.

The programme commenced with an introductory overview delivered by Dr. Jayampathi Herath, Senior Lecturer and member of the IQAC-PGIS, followed by a welcome address from Prof. N.W.B. Balasooriya, Director of PGIS. Mrs. Ishra Iqbal, President of the Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) and a PhD student at PGIS, shared insights on YRF activities and warmly welcomed new students to the society. Membership enrollment forms were also distributed during her address.

Scientific sessions on the first day and the first session of the second day were held at the PGIS Auditorium. On the afternoon of the second day, participants engaged in interactive group sessions conducted simultaneously at five venues: the PGIS Auditorium, Conference Hall, and three lecture rooms. A detailed schedule of the sessions, along with the names of the respective resource persons, is provided below. To gather participants' feedback, evaluation forms prepared by the IQAC, PGIS were distributed at the end of the programme.

Special appreciation is extended to the participating students, resource persons, the YRF President, and the dedicated PGIS staff whose collective efforts



19. THE 29TH WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING (CTD.)

26- 27/05/2025

Session	Facilitator
Day 1 : Foundations of Scientific Writing	
Session 1: Structure and Layout of a Scientific Thesis	Prof. Priyanka de Silva
Session 2: Writing Effective Titles and Abstracts	Prof. W.A. I. P. Karunaratne
Session 3: Research Ethics, Plagiarism and Academic Integrity in Scientific Writing	Prof. Priyanka de Silva
Session 4: Computer-Aided, AI-based Literature Survey & Referencing Tools	Dr. H. A. Usoof
Session 5: Writing Introduction and Literature Review	Prof. S.H.P. P. Karunaratne
Session 6: Results, Discussion and Conclusions	Prof. S.H.P. P. Karunaratne
Session 7: Wrap-Up Session (Q&A)	Prof. S.H.P. P. Karunaratne Moderator : Dr. Jayampathi Herath
Day 2	
Session 8: Writing Experimental/Materials and Methods	Prof. R S Rajakaruna
Session 9: Conference and Journal Paper Writing	Prof. H.M.S.P. Madawala (Editor-in-Chief, Ceylon Journal of Science)
Session 10: Group Activity (Title, Abstracts, Introduction, Results, Discussion and Conclusion)	
Group A	Dr. Dilan Ratnayake
Group B	Dr. Manjula Wijesinghe
Group C	Dr. Chaminda Wijesundara
Group D	Dr. V. Sivakumar
Group E	Prof. Priyanka de Silva



Written by : W.M.Rajitha Widuranga Weerakoon/Temporary Instructor/ PGIS

20. PGIS RESCON 2025 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP EMPOWERS STUDENTS ON GRADUATE STUDIES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (SOP) WRITING

02/08/2025

The 3rd Pre-Conference Workshop of PGIS RESCON 2025 was successfully held on Saturday, 2nd August 2025, at the PGIS Conference Hall, drawing an enthusiastic audience of over 100 participants, including undergraduates, postgraduates, and early-career researchers. The workshop, titled “Navigating Graduate Studies & Effective SOP Writing,” provided a valuable platform for students aspiring to pursue higher studies and careers abroad.

The event featured three distinguished speakers from the United States:

- Prof. Susan M. Lunte, Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Kansas, USA
- Dr. Binodh De Silva, Senior Vice President, Bioanalytical & Biomarker Development, Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.
- Dr. Gamini Dharmasena, Senior Electronics Engineer, VideoRay LLC and University of Oklahoma, USA

The program commenced with a ceremonial welcome procession followed by opening remarks by Prof. M.Y.U. Ganehenege, Chairperson of RESCON 2025. Prof. Nanda Balasooriya, Director of PGIS, then introduced the institute and the RESCON initiative. Dr. Manjula Wijesinghe provided a brief introduction to the guest speakers.

Prof. Susan Lunte opened the academic proceedings with a research talk on “Bioanalytical Applications on Microchip and Capillary Electrophoresis,” showcasing how modern analytical techniques are used in cutting-edge pharmaceutical research. A musical performance by the PGIS Art Circle added a vibrant cultural note to the event.



20. PGIS RESCON 2025 1ST PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON EMPOWERS STUDENTS ON GRADUATE STUDIES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (SOP) OF WRITING (CTD.)

02/08/2025

This was followed by targeted career development sessions:

- Prof. Lunte offered advice on graduate study opportunities in the USA, outlining how to identify suitable programs and secure funding.
- Dr. Binodh De Silva delivered an engaging session on essential skills required for admission to graduate schools and positions in the biotech industry, emphasizing soft skills, adaptability, and personal branding.

The highlight of the workshop was the interactive session on SOP (Statement of Purpose) and CV writing, where participants received practical guidance on crafting strong applications for graduate programs. The open Q&A that followed gave students the chance to clarify doubts on everything from program selection to scholarship strategies.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Gajaba Ellepola, Secretary of RESCON 2025, followed by a tea break and a lunch reception for the invited speakers at the Royal Rest House, Peradeniya.

This pre-conference workshop was not only informative but also deeply motivating, equipping participants with the tools and confidence to pursue their academic and professional goals abroad. It exemplifies PGIS's commitment to fostering global academic engagement and supporting the aspirations of the next generation of scientists and scholars.

Written by: Dr. D.R.G.W.B. Ellepola/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

Photographs by : Ravindu/Ushan (99 Monkeys Social Jungle)





PGIS NEWS

2025

VOLUME 25, No. 01



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Comments and suggestions to improve the quality of this newsletter are welcome. Please contact: IQAC - PGIS , Email: iqac@pgis.lk

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