

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

(Incorporated by Act No.21 of 2000)



**Guidance for the submission of Thesis or
Publication for eligibility for the membership**

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GUIDANCE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THESIS OR PUBLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

1. Sri Lanka Institute Act

In terms of Section 6(b) of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation Act No. 21 of 2000, a person who submits a thesis or other publication acceptable to the Council shall be eligible for membership of the Institute.

2. Regulations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation

Paragraph 4 (a) of the Rule of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation for the admission of membership provide that an Associate of the Institute shall be a person who has in conformity of the rules of the Council has submitted a thesis or other publication accepted by the Council.

3. Persons entitled to submit a thesis or publication

Persons entitled to submit a thesis or publication for Associate Membership in accordance with rule 5 of the Regulations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation should be either:

- (a) A Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; or
- (b) An Attorney at law; or
- (c) is or has been a Senior Assessor of the Department of Inland Revenue with a minimum of 10 years service in the Department of Inland Revenue or
- (d) A Commissioner General, Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Revenue.

The Council of the Institute envisages that the persons who elect to submit a thesis for admission to Associate Membership must demonstrate substantive in depth study of the knowledge in, the practice of, the competence in the application and implementation of the tax laws in Sri Lanka. The subject matter of the thesis selected must be within the confines of the objects of the Institute and must cover the wider aspects of the examination syllabus specified by the Institute

4. The objectives of the Institute

The objectives for which the Sri Lanka Institute has been established, cover amongst others, are:

- (a) to create awareness in the field of taxation among the members of the public and to promote and advance the study of the law and practice of taxation and the principles of economic and political science in relation to taxation and public finance.
- (b) To promote and co-ordinate the dissemination of tax awareness and knowledge with the respective Revenue Authorities of Sri Lanka;
- (c) To facilitate the exchange of information and views on taxation and the creation of a well informed public opinion on the subject;
- (d) To provide opportunities for the acquisition and dissemination of useful information concerning taxation in Sri Lanka and other countries.
- (e) To make recommendations to the Government for the improvement or simplification of the tax law and practice and to highlight anomalies in laws relating to taxation and to comment on proposed changes in the laws.
- (f) To conduct and provide for the conduct of qualifying examination for membership of the corporation and approve a course of study for such examination.

5. Approved course of study for the qualifying examination of the Institute

The Council of the Institute has in pursuit of this objective has formulated a comprehensive syllabus providing for a scheme of study encompassing:

- (a) Principles and practices of income tax
- (b) Principles and practices of Value Added Tax;
- (c) Accounting procedures in quantifying liability;
- (d) Tax Incentives and Concessions;
- (e) Impact of the Commercial Law in relation to tax issues;
- (f) Enforcing Self assessment procedures and compliance requirements, assessment, appeal, tax recovery and penal provisions;
- (g) Corporate Taxation
- (h) Compliance to statutory provisions and procedures to withhold tax and account to the Revenue
- (i) Stamp Duty
- (j) Turnover Tax,
- (k) Economic Service Charge;
- (l) Customs Duty;
- (m) Excise Duty,
- (n) Debits Tax
- (o) Betting and Gaming Levy
- (p) Other tax related topics

6. The Thesis or Publication

The subject selected for the Thesis or Publication must be newly researched material that would provide authoritative knowledge, within the scope of the course of study prescribed by the Institute, enriching and enhancing the identified objectives for which the Institute has been established.

7. Contents of the Thesis

The contents of the Thesis must cover any of the subjects described in Para 4 and 5 above in relation to the application of the law, problems of implementation, and Administration of the tax laws.

The Council invites presentation of the topics for Thesis in the following areas of study generally and not limited to:

- (a) A discussion on the concepts, principles and the prevailing practical issues in taxation in Sri Lanka;
- (b) Exposition of important tax policy issues in the background of their theoretical relevance and the practical application in Sri Lanka and other countries;
- (c) Recent advances in tax policy matters and their relevance to the fiscal policy in Sri Lanka;
- (d) Research on technical issues in the background of available resources useful for the tax administration and taxpayers;
- (e) A presentation to add to the tax literature in Sri Lanka by examining, clarifying and elaborating the concepts of taxation laws in its practical application.
- (f) Application of the law and practices identifying practical tax issues;
- (g) Issues relating to the integration of personal and corporate income taxes in Sri Lanka;
- (h) Issues relating to share trading, dividends, share transfer tax and stamp duty.
- (i) Issues relating to the exemption of capital gains and its impacts on capital formation, amalgamation and mergers of companies and other related issues
- (j) The impact of the exemption of inheritance and gift tax
- (k) Making full use of the tax incentives and its impact on the government fiscal policy objectives;
- (l) Cross border taxation, double tax relief and other taxation tools to attract foreign investment and capital inflows;

- (m) The taxation of Financial Institutions.
- (n) Anti avoidance tax issues related to transfer pricing and thin capitalization among group of companies;
- (o) Improvements to Tax Administration and containing farad within tax administration
- (p) Improvement in Tax Compliance
- (q) Ensuring quick repayment of taxes paid in excess.
- (r) Any other topics of study considered useful.

8. Approval of the Council

The Thesis selected must receive prior approval of the Council of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation. The request for approval must provide:

- (i) The title of the thesis;
- (ii) A brief synopsis of the scope of the topic in about 300 words;
- (iii) The objectives of the study;
- (iv) A brief statement as to what your expectations of being valuable addition to the tax literature in Sri Lanka

The scope of the Thesis selected must be useful, informative and would assist the Tax Administration and Taxpayers in the proper administration of the tax law and promote tax compliance.

9. The Format of the Thesis

The following guidelines are to be adhered in the presentation:

- (a) The Thesis must be personal to the author and must contain author's analysis of the issues under discussion and should represent an original analysis of the author;
- (b) The key ideas in the Thesis must provide:
 - (i) the background;
 - (ii) Statement of the problem envisaged;
 - (iii) Statement of the objectives and the significance of the study undertaken;
 - (iv) Identify the scope and limitation of the study;
 - (v) Provide Chapter outline;
 - (vi) Provide your conclusions and recommendations supported by your analysis and descriptive materials.
- (c) Thesis must be fully referenced stating the sources used, quotations clearly identified, must be cited with foot notes
- (d) The Thesis should normally be between 10,000 to 15,000 words;
- (e) The Thesis must be bound, using Times New Roman or similar type ways in 12 font in one side of A4 paper, the pages numbered throughout the whole work.
- (f) The contents must appear at the front of the Thesis.

10. Acceptance of the Thesis

The acceptance of the Thesis presented will be at the sole discretion of the Council. The Council may appoint a committee to study and report to the Council as to acceptably of the Thesis.

The Council or the Committee of the Council may, if it considers necessary, invite the person submitting the Thesis to make a presentation at a time and place decided by the Council to consider further, the acceptability of the Thesis. The Council or the Committee may make suggestion for the improvement or amendments be made to the Thesis and the Thesis as amended may be accepted by the Institute.

11. Publication of the Thesis in the Sri Lanka Tax Review

The rights in the Thesis presented and accepted by the Institute shall vest in the Institute and the Institute has the right to publish such Thesis in the Sri Lanka Tax Review at the discretion of the Council and the editorial board of the Institute.
