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My No.

MOHE/OE/BLD/Rus

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உமது இல.  
Your No.

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திகதி  
Date

27.09.2020

Chairman/University Grants Commission  
All Vice Chancellors of Universities  
All CEO's of Non State Higher Education Institutes

**Request to Offer Sri Lankan University Scholarships to Russian Students**

This refers to the communication No. FM/429 dated 12.09.2020 sent by Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary/ Foreign Ministry with a copy to this Ministry regarding the above (**Annex I**).

2. It is mentioned that the Russian Federation has been offering 40 scholarships to Sri Lankan students annually, in divers fields such as Medicine, Economics, Agriculture, Engineering, International Relations..etc, nearly 60 years. Further, the Russian Embassy has recently learnt from Russian students and Russian state agencies interest to follow university programmes in Sri Lanka, especially in areas of Asian studies, Archelogy, Buddhology, Culture and Language.

3. Accordingly, the Sri Lankan Mission in Moscow has requested to offer limited number of scholarships to Russian students to enroll in Bachelor's programme in Sri Lankan universities. Hence, you are kindly requested to disseminate the enclosed information among relevant authorities/ parties under the purview of your university/institute and respond to this Ministry at your earliest.

**Krishanthi Meegahapola**

Director (Overseas Education)

for Secretary

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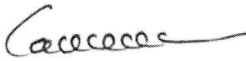
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**Addressed to** : Secretary/Foreign Ministry  
Attn: DG/Europe & Central Asia Division

**Copies to** : Secretary, Ministry of Education

**From** : Ambassador

**Signature and designation** :   
Ambassador

**Priority** :

**No. of pages including this page:** 02

**Date:** 12 September 2020

**Message No:** FM/429.

**Ref:** RUS/POL/05

**Request to offer Sri Lankan University Scholarships to Russian Students**

The Russian Federation has been offering scholarships to Sri Lankan students for nearly 60 years. Currently the number of scholarships offered annually are 40, in diverse fields such as Medicine, Economics, Agriculture, Engineering, International relations ..etc

The Embassy has recently learnt from Russian students and Russian state agencies about the interest of Russian students to follow university programs in Sri Lanka, especially in areas of Asian studies, Archeology, Buddhology, Culture and Language. The interest to learn language is evident from the response the Embassy received to an advertisement on conducting a basic Sinhala language online course for Russian students. 190 students have registered !

Considering the aforementioned, the Mission believes it would be mutually beneficial to both countries to offer a limited number of scholarships to Russian students to enroll in Bachelor's program in Sri Lankan universities. There will be far reaching benefits to Sri Lanka emanating from such a gesture, especially at a time that Sri Lanka has requested from the Russian side to increase the number of scholarships offered to Sri Lanka.

(Ends).