# Terms of Reference for Constultant on assessment tool

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation

Project AHEAD/RA2/ELTAELSE/PDN/AGRI

ELTA-ELSA Development Projects – Faculty Proposal

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

1. BACKGROUND

The development of thehigher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed, to support the higher education sector through a Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

2. THE OPERATION

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation is organized into two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program. The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways (MHEH). The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. There will be an Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the MHEH, UGC, and the universities.

AHEAD has three Results Areas:

Results Area 1: Increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development

Results Area 2: Improving the Quality of Higher Education

Results Area 3: Promoting Research, Development and Innovation

The Project AHEAD/RA2/ELTAELSE/PDN/AGRI comes under Results Area 2 implemented by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (UoP). The AHEAD operations are coordinated by Operations Technical secretariat (OTS) at UoP and Operation and Monitoring Support Team (OMTS) at UGC and Ministry.

3. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

We envision a virtual space through which we support students to seamlessly transition to the university and then to the outside world. Students will be able to connect with other students, staff and alumni, assess their skill levels and explore their interests, and reach for resources and people to support them if they are struggling academically or want to build their competencies specific to their interests. We envision a radically transformed e-learning system that connects our many stakeholders, students, teachers, alumni, and others, strengthens students’ social networks, and helps showcase their work. In this process, students must become the agents of change both for themselves and their social systems.

The objective of the consultancy is the design and development of an assessment tool that would allow students to assess themselves in their knowledge, skills, and other characteristics including interests in order that they become aware of their strengths and weaknesses as well as their interests.

4. SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The tool should support students as they reorient their aspirations in a manner that is aligned with their degree programme. It should be capable of assessment over the four academic years of the program so that students may monitor their progress over time in a manner that is psychometrically and theoretically sound and is acceptable to the Project Team.

5. KEY TASKS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The main duties and responsibilities of the consultant on the assessment tool will be to:

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| **Key Task** | **Required Deliverable** | **Time frame (after signing the contract)** |
| 1 | Develop specifications for the tool in terms of competencies and level descriptors at registration and completion of each year of study with adequate justification after consultation with the Faculty of Agriculture. | 1 months |
| 2 | Once #1 is approved by project team, propose tools in the form of a report with adequate justification. | 2 months |
| 3 | Receive feedback and make amendments to#2 | 3 months |
| 4 | Pilot test the e-platform with 1st years | 4 months |
| 5 | Field test and validate the tool. Submit in the form of a report. | 5 months |
| 6 | Support e-platform consultant to migrate tool to the e-platform. | 6 months |

6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The contract will run for 6 months from the date of signing the contract.

7. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

* Background and academic qualifications in psychometrics
* Knowledge of scale construction and validation procedures
* Demonstrated experience working on assessment.

8. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

Through advertise and selection interview.

9. REPORTING THE DELIVERABLES

The consultant shall closely coordinate and report to the project team, through the Activity 2 Coordinator.

10. REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

* ability to liaise with the Activity Coordinator and Co-coordinator Activity 2
* ability to analyze and resolve implementation issues effectively
* ability to interact with senior academic and administrative staff in the university and the Faculty of Agriculture
* ability to function effectively in a team environment inspiring trust and cooperation of other team members
* IT literacy
* strong communication, negotiating skills and good interpersonal relations
* high level of proficiency in written and spoken English

11. OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSIGNMENT