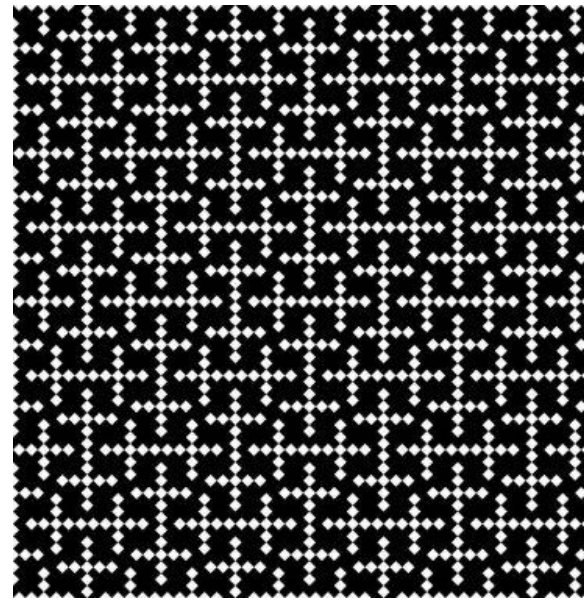


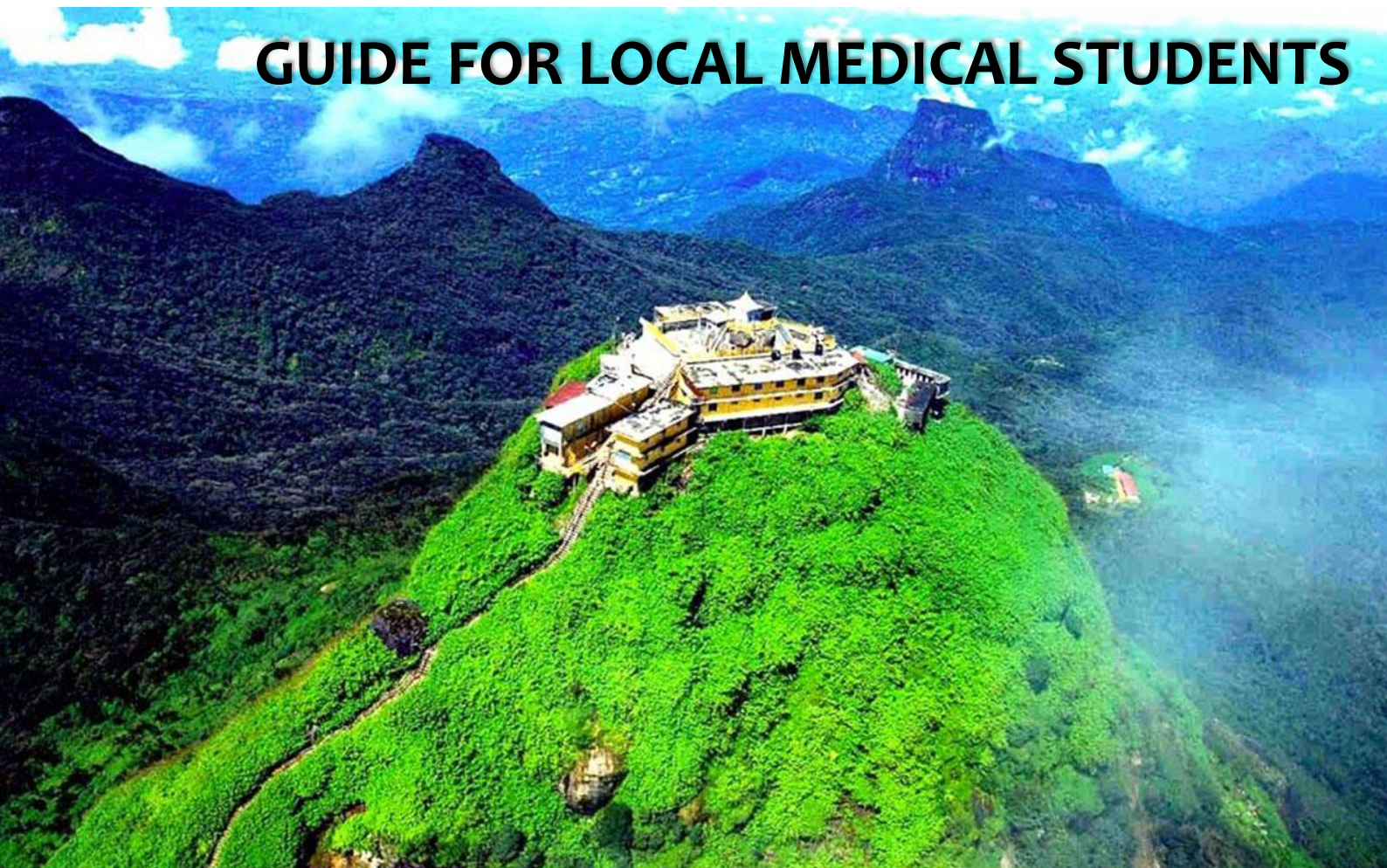
Faculty of Medicine

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



ELECTIVE PROGRAMME

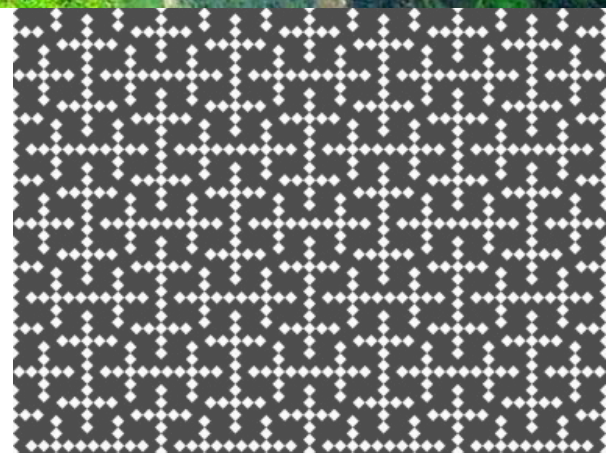
GUIDE FOR LOCAL MEDICAL STUDENTS



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ISBN 978-624-97939-6-5

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1. Introduction

The elective programme is an essential component of the MBBS curriculum of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL). In contrast to other components and subjects in the MBBS curriculum, the elective programme is unique because it encourages the students to think and work freely on an area of their interest. The students are expected to complete this programme and compile a reflective report. This booklet is a guide for the students on how to complete their elective programme. The elective programmes for foreign students are different and a separate guidebook is available.

The students are expected to select their own projects. A wide range of topics are included in this guide only as examples and should not be considered as a comprehensive list of possible topics. When students have selected their topics, they should discuss them with their mentors (internal supervisors) and workout the logistics involved. The coordinator and the organizers of the elective programme are always available to guide and help students during their elective programme.

2. Aims

There are four main aims of the electives programme. The students are expected to select one.

1) **To broaden students' horizons in general, in an area outside medicine.**

This is to enable students to gain new knowledge or skills or learn from novel experiences. It could be an area you are already familiar with, for example a student who is an author of short stories may wish to write a novel. You may also select a subject which is totally new to you e.g., sculpture. Other areas that you may consider include singing, dancing, drama, drawing, painting, cookery, sewing, carpentry, metal work, music, social work, pre-school teaching, learning a new language, interacting and learning about a different culture or religion, learning to drive, learning to swim, learning to play chess, meditation etc.

You could take advantage of several opportunities in the Sabaragamuwa University itself. It has several other disciplines or study areas that may interest you. These include social sciences, political science, computer science, laboratory sciences, engineering, accountancy, archaeology, human resource management, research on indigenous knowledge and working with indigenous groups etc.

The University is surrounded by several interesting areas: world heritage forest of Sinharaja, Sri Pada (Adam's Peak), the Ella which is a tourist paradise and the Balangoda Caves which are world famous for pre-historic settlements. Planned visits to such sites, with clearly identified objectives, could also be topics for the elective programme.

2) **To broaden students' horizons in medical practices, other than western medicine.**

e.g., Local indigenous medicine ('Hela Wedakama'), Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy, Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture etc.

3) **For students to have a more in-depth exposure to a specialty or a subspecialty in medicine, which they hope to pursue as a future career**

For example paediatric endocrinology, pain medicine, sports medicine, diabetic foot, adolescent medicine, vascular surgery, retinal surgery, urogynecology, gynae-oncology, allergy and immunology, vascular and interventional radiology, forensic psychiatry etc.

Students may also wish to study clinical management of patients in national or international hospitals other than Teaching Hospital Ratnapura.

4) To foster and promote personal and social responsibility (as a group activity)

Examples include organizing health promotional activities such as a “health camp” in a village or a street drama; fundraising activities; donating books to a rural or school library; organizing awareness programmes e.g. - healthy lifestyle, screen addiction of children, early childhood development, screening and early detection of malignancies. Improving the quality of life in patients with chronic diseases such as chronic kidney disease, transfusion dependent anaemias, cerebral palsy, terminal illnesses etc. could be suitable topics. Assisting and working in organizations and institutions caring for the elderly, physically or mentally challenged individuals or the poor, too could be considered. Within the proposal there should be a separate section explaining how each individual student would contribute to the project. The workload and responsibilities should be appropriate for the number of students in the group and should be divided equally among the group members.

3. Duration and the process

Duration

Four (04) weeks

Process

The elective programme will be scheduled to commence after completion of the 3rd MBBS Part 2 Examination and the Community Medicine Research Project and needs to be satisfactorily completed prior to commencement of the professorial appointments. Students who are unsuccessful at the 3rd MBBS Part 2 Examination at the first attempt, may commence the elective programme with the rest of the batch mates pending completion of the 3rd MBBS Part 2 examination at a subsequent attempt.

Each student or a **group of students (maximum six)** must:

- **select a topic for the elective programme** according to the student's or group of students' personal choice. Students should discuss the topic with their assigned mentors, who will be their internal supervisors, and obtain preliminary approval.
if the assigned mentor is unable to be the internal supervisor for a valid reason, the coordinator of the elective programme (Dr. Champika Gamakaranage, Senior Lecturer in Medicine) will arrange another member of the academic staff to be the internal supervisor.
- **plan out** the elective programme - including identification of the prospective external supervisor and the site of the elective programme
- **submit a brief proposal** (250–300 words) justifying the selected elective programme and describing the intended learning outcomes (ILOs) from it, on the prescribed online format, for approval by the internal supervisor.

4. Assessment strategy

- Report from the external supervisor certifying attendance and including a structured assessment of performance (punctuality, enthusiasm, commitment to the programme, teamwork if appropriate and whether the objectives of the programme were achieved) during the elective programme.
- Structured assessment of a reflective report (500 - 600 words), which must be submitted by each student, (for individual activities as well as group activities) to the internal supervisor, within one month of completion of the elective programme. The reflective report should include the following: title of the programme, aims, whether the aims were achieved, highlights and good outcomes, difficulties encountered, how the programme would be of benefit to the student in the future, any other comments.
- An oral examination and appropriate remedial measures would be implemented if either the supervisor's report or the reflective reports is unsatisfactory.
- **No marks will be awarded for the elective programme. However, satisfactory completion of the elective programme is mandatory for a student to commence the professorial appointments.**
- Using a structured assessment, certificates of merit will be awarded to the three leading students.

