

SWOT Analysis – PGIHS, University of Peradeniya

Strengths (Internal Positive Attributes)	Weaknesses (Internal Negative Attributes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Reputation: A well-recognized name nationally and regionally in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. • Qualified Academic Staff: A strong pool of experienced and well-qualified academics with research and teaching excellence. • Infrastructure and Resources: A dedicated space with essential facilities, library access, and academic support services. • Collaboration: Active collaborations with national institutions and select international partners. • Student Quality: Admission of high-performing and motivated postgraduate students. • Strong Access to Findings: Good access to research findings, enabling knowledge sharing and informed policymaking. • Research Journal: Presence of an institutional research journal that supports scholarly publication and peer learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Funding for Research: Inadequate financial support affecting the scale and depth of research. • Gaps in Infrastructure: Some outdated facilities and limited access to modern learning environments. • Inefficient Administrative System: Bureaucratic delays and procedural inefficiencies. • Poor Industry Link: Weak engagement with industry and limited practical exposure for students. • Low International Visibility: Limited global presence in terms of partnerships and publications. • High Dropout Rate: Concerning student attrition due to academic, financial, or personal factors. • Limited Access to Modern Technology: Lack of advanced technological tools and digital infrastructure. • Delay of Releasing Results: Time taken to release results affecting student progression. • Student Harassment: Reports or risks of harassment affecting student well-being and institutional reputation.
Opportunities (External Positive Factors)	Threats (External Negative Factors)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Demand: Growing interest in postgraduate education and social science research. • Global Partnership and Internationalization: Opportunities to expand international collaborations and student exchanges. • Interdisciplinary Research: Emerging scope to lead cross-disciplinary initiatives and projects. • Contribution to Regional Development: Ability to shape policy and practice through localized and impactful research. • Initiating and Expanding Alumni and Industry Network: Potential to leverage alumni and professional networks for mentoring, funding, and placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Public Fundings: Risk of declining government support for postgraduate education and research. • Competing Private Universities: Increasing competition from well-funded and agile private institutions. • Brain Drain (Academics): Loss of qualified faculty to international opportunities or more attractive positions. • Changes in Labour Markets: Mismatch between graduate skills and evolving employment trends. • Natural Disasters: Vulnerability to climate and environmental risks disrupting operations. • Technological Challenges: Rapid tech advancements that outpace institutional capacity and adaptability.

SWOT vs Vision, Mission, and Values – PGIHS

Alignment with Vision

Vision: To be the leader in postgrad education, research and critical thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences in the country and a centre of excellence of learning in the region.		
SWOT Element	Comparison with Vision	Alignment
Strengths	Strong academic staff, governance, journal, and curriculum committee support high-quality research and leadership aspirations.	High alignment
Weaknesses	Low international visibility, limited technology, and poor industry link are contrary to becoming a “centre of excellence.”	Misalignment
Opportunities	Global partnerships and interdisciplinary research directly support regional excellence and thought leadership	Strong potential
Threats	Brain drain, lack of funding, and private competition threatens PGIHS’s ability to be a national and regional leader	Strategic risk
Mission: To provide high quality postgraduate education aimed at producing scholars, researchers and professionals who not only possess knowledge, skills and competencies in their respective fields of study but also have a sense of duty towards fellow humans, society and environment		
SWOT Element	Comparison with Mission	Alignment
Strengths	Student quality, curriculum committee, and research platforms directly support the development of competent scholars and professionals.	Strong fit
Weaknesses	High dropout rates, delayed results, harassment, and inefficient admin compromise student experience and quality assurance.	Weaknesses conflict with mission
Opportunities	Expanding networks and regional development align with producing socially responsible graduates	Positive support
Threats	Labour market changes and lack of public funding could impact the institute’s capacity to fulfill its mission.	Need mitigation
Core Values: <i>Equality of opportunity, academic integrity, critical knowledge, social sensitivity, respect, democracy, and transparency.</i>		
SWOT Element	Comparison with Values	Alignment
Strengths	Governance and leadership, integrity in curriculum development, and commitment to research reflect strong adherence to core values.	Good alignment
Weaknesses	Harassment, inefficiencies, and lack of transparency in result processing contradict values like equality, accountability, and respect.	Serious misalignment

Opportunities	Alumni engagement and interdisciplinary approaches can reinforce diversity, dialogue, and mutual respect.	High alignment potential
Threats	Policy uncertainty and technological shifts may challenge democratic governance and open knowledge systems.	Values under pressure

The strengths of PGIHS—such as its academic reputation, qualified staff, strong governance, and emphasis on research and curriculum development—clearly support its vision of becoming a national leader and regional center of excellence in postgraduate education. These strengths also align well with the mission of producing competent scholars and professionals who are socially responsible. However, several internal weaknesses, including administrative inefficiencies, high dropout rates, delays in releasing results, and reported cases of student harassment, directly contradict the institution’s core values of accountability, transparency, mutual respect, and equality of opportunity. These weaknesses also hinder the mission’s goal of providing a high-quality educational experience and developing professionals with a strong ethical grounding.

External opportunities, such as growing demand for postgraduate education, international collaborations, interdisciplinary research, and alumni engagement, offer significant potential to enhance the institute’s global presence and reinforce its values of diversity and social sensitivity. Yet, these opportunities remain underutilized. Meanwhile, external threats—including reduced public funding, competition from private universities, brain drain, policy uncertainties, and technological disruptions—pose real challenges to achieving the strategic goals outlined in the vision and mission.

In summary, while PGIHS has a solid foundation and clear strategic aspirations, there is a pressing need to address internal weaknesses and proactively respond to external threats. Doing so will ensure that the institution not only remains aligned with its vision and mission but also lives out its values in a meaningful and impactful way.