EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)

For courses commencing in September 2015 or later Title of Course Bye-Laws to read as follows:


instead of:


IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following bye-laws made by the Board of the Institute of Earth Systems in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 8 (b) (v) of the Statute for the Institute, which bye-laws have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of International Master of Science in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management – M.Sc. (SERM) – offered under the auspices of the Institute of Earth Systems.

    (2) In these bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires -
“the Board” means the Board of Studies as appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Institute of Earth Systems after consultation with the Partner University;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of International Master of Science in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management – M.Sc. (SERM);

“the Degree” means the double degree of Master of Science in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management – M.Sc. (SERM) – of the University and the Master of Science in Integrated Science and Technology of the Partner University;

“the Partner University” means James Madison University, Virginia, USA;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management;

“the Principal Regulations” means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008;

“the Senate” means the Senate of the University of Malta; and

“the University” means the University of Malta.

Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:

Citation and Interpretation

1.  (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of International Master of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability – M.Sc. (EMS) – offered under the auspices of the Institute of Earth Systems.

   (2) In these bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires -

   “the Board” means the Board of Studies as appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Institute of Earth Systems after consultation with the Partner University;

   “the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of International Master of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability – M.Sc. (EMS);
“the Degree” means the double degree of Master of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability – M.Sc. (EMS) – of the University and the Partner University;

“the Partner University” means James Madison University, Virginia, USA;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management and Sustainability – P.G.Dip. (EMS);

“the Principal Regulations” means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008;

“the Senate” means the Senate of the University of Malta; and

“the University” means the University of Malta.

(3) This Degree is an International Master’s degree of the University and this shall be taken to mean that the Course is taught at the University in collaboration with a Partner University within the framework of a double degree programme. The Degree shall only be awarded if both universities declare the student to be eligible for its award.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing from August 2010 onwards.

Requirements for Admission

3. The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a first cycle degree in Science or Engineering or in another area of study which the Board considers as appropriate, provided that the first cycle degree is obtained with a second class honours or better classification, or an equivalent classification.

Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a first cycle degree in Earth Systems, Science or Engineering or in another area of study which the Board considers as appropriate, provided that the first cycle degree is obtained with a second class honours or better classification, or an equivalent classification.
Applicable for courses commencing in September 2016 or later:

(2) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, may limit the number of students that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. When the number is so limited and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected according to the following criteria, agreed to by both universities:

(a) relevance of topics, results and final classification of degree - 65%; and

(b) statement of intent and motivation for following the Course and letters of recommendation - 35%.

(3) When the above criteria are not sufficient to decide on the selection of applicants, interviews may be held for that purpose.

(4) When held, interviews shall be conducted by an interviewing board appointed by the Board, which shall be composed of at least three members.

(5) The interviewing board may make use of electronic means of communication in order to conduct such interviews.

Course Duration

4. The Course shall extend over a period of three semesters of full-time study.

Programme of Study

5. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which at least 90 credits are assigned, of which at least 60 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:

5. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which at least 60 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits are assigned to the research project study-unit.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to taught study-units with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.
(3) The programme of study shall be published after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

Assessment and Progress

6. (1) The assessment of each taught study-unit shall be completed by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

(2) A Board of Examiners shall be appointed for each study-unit taken by written and/or oral examination in accordance with the provisions of the University Assessment Regulations.

(3) Students who fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits for taught study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments at the next scheduled examination session (May or September).

(4) Students who fail in more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (3) of this bye-law, or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

7. (1) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(2) The title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be approved by the Board not later than two months before the start of the third semester.

Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:

Research Project

7. (1) Work on the research project shall be undertaken during the third semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(2) The title of the research project and a detailed research proposal shall be approved by the Board not later than two months after the start of the second semester.

8. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.
(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for students under their supervision. Such reports may include a recommendation to either (a) extend the period of study in order to enable the student to complete the dissertation; or (b) terminate studies prematurely if the supervisor deems this to be proper in the circumstances, provided that:

(i) the extension of the study period referred to in (a) shall be in accordance with the provisions of Principal Regulations; and

(ii) the Board may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

**Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:**

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for students under their supervision. Such reports may include a recommendation to either (a) extend the period of study in order to enable the student to complete the research project; or (b) terminate studies prematurely if the supervisor deems this to be proper in the circumstances, provided that:

(i) the extension of the study period referred to in (a) shall be in accordance with the provisions of Principal Regulations; and

(ii) the Board may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

9. (1) For the examination of the dissertation, the Board of Examiners shall be composed of three examiners from the University and the Partner University, and shall normally include the supervisor and the co-supervisor when one is appointed.

(2) Students shall normally be required to take a *viva voce* examination to defend their dissertation and this may be conducted using electronic means of communication if so approved by the Board.

**Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:**

9. (1) For the examination of the research project, the Board of Examiners shall be composed of three examiners from the University and the Partner University, and shall normally include the supervisor and the co-supervisor when one is appointed.

(2) Students shall normally be required to take a *viva voce* examination to defend their research project and this may be conducted using electronic means of communication if so approved by the Board.
10. Students whose dissertation is found unsatisfactory may either fail or may be required by the Board of Examiners to rewrite the document in whole or in part and to re-submit it for examination. Students may re-submit the dissertation not later than four months from notification of the decision by the Board of Examiners.

**Applicable for courses commencing in September 2015 or later:**

10. Students whose research project is found unsatisfactory may either fail or may be required by the Board of Examiners to rewrite the document in whole or in part and to re-submit it for examination. Students may re-submit the research project not later than four months from notification of the decision by the Board of Examiners.

**Classification of the Awards**

11. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

**Testimonial of the Award**

12. The testimonial given by the University shall include a statement to indicate that the Partner University has separately awarded a degree for successful completion of the same Course.

**Repeal**

13. The International Master of Science in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management – M.Sc. (SERM) Degree Course Regulations, 2008, under the auspices of the Faculty of Science, published as Legal Notice 113 of 2008, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st August 2010, provided that students registered for this course before 1st August 2010 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.