EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)  


IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 75 and 79 of the said Act:

Citation and interpretation  

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Postgraduate Certificate in Education - P.G.C.E. - Course Regulations, 2007.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Education;

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies appointed by Senate for the Course;

“the Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in Education - P.G.C.E.; and

“the Course” means the course of studies leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Education - P.G.C.E.

Applicability  

2. These regulations shall apply to courses starting in October 2006 or later.
Eligibility for the Certificate

3. To be eligible for the award of the Certificate, students must:

   (a) be registered as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University and satisfy the Admission Requirements stipulated in regulation 4;

   (b) complete the course of studies, obtain the credits indicated in paragraph (1) of regulation 10 and satisfy all the requirements prescribed in these regulations; and

   (c) satisfy any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

Admission Requirements

4. (1) Applicants shall apply to register for the Course on the prescribed form and within the time specified by the Office of the Registrar.

   (2) (a) The Board shall announce the areas of specialisation offered as approved by Senate, which shall normally be the subjects taught as curriculum subjects at secondary level, before the beginning of each Course. The areas of specialisation shall be offered depending on the availability of resources and the number of applicants who choose them. Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of an area of specialisation as their teaching area at the time of application.

   (b) (i) The Board shall also recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for each area of specialisation in the Course, depending on the number of school placements available. The number of available places shall be announced as soon as the relevant information is made available to the University.

   (ii) If there are more eligible applicants than the number of places available, applicants shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

       Holders of a Ph.D. in the subject area

       Holders of a Bachelor degree in the subject area and a Master degree in the subject area

       Holders of a Bachelor degree in the subject area and a postgraduate qualification in the subject area

       Holders of a Bachelor Honours degree in the subject area - First Class
Holders of a Bachelor Honours degree in the subject area - Second Class
Upper

Holders of a Bachelor Honours degree in the subject area - Second Class
Lower

Holders of a Bachelor Honours degree in the subject area - Third Class

Holders of a Bachelor degree in the subject area - Category I

Holders of a Bachelor degree in the subject area - Category IIA

Holders of a Bachelor degree in the subject area - Category IIB.

Holders of a Master degree, and/or an Honours degree, or an Ordinary
degree with at least Category II, in all instances with at least 60 ECTS credits in the
area of specialisation chosen as the teaching area.

(iii) If, after the rank order is established as indicated above, there is a tie for
any one or more places, the final average mark obtained by the student in his/her
Master or Bachelor degree shall be considered.

(iv) If there is a further tie, interviews shall be resorted to.

(v) For the purpose of selection, applicants who are clearly qualified by 31
August shall be placed in rank order and those for whom places are available shall
be accepted and informed accordingly. If vacant places are still available, applicants
who become fully qualified after 31 August and before 30 September shall be placed
in rank order and accepted to take up the remaining places.

(3) To be registered as regular students in the Course, applicants must
be in possession of:

(a) either an Honours degree, or an ordinary degree with at least Category II,
in both cases with at least 60 ECTS credits in the area of specialisation chosen as the
teaching area; and

(b) the European Computer Driving Licence; or

(c) other qualifications that the Board considers equivalent to those required
in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this regulation obtained from the University, or
from an institution recognised by the Senate for the purpose.

(4) In addition to the qualifications required by paragraph (3) of this
regulation, applicants choosing the following areas of specialisation are also
required to be in possession of credits in the areas of study indicated or in other areas of study as approved by the Board of Studies:

(a) for **Business Education**: students may specialise either in Business Studies or in Accounting

(i) For Business Studies: a minimum of 60 ECTS credits at first degree level in any combination from the following areas: Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing, and Social Policy;

(ii) For Accounting: a minimum of 30 ECTS credits in Accountancy in combination with a minimum of 30 ECTS credits in any combination from the following areas: Banking and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing, and Social Policy;

(b) for **Computing and Information Technology**: a minimum of 60 ECTS credits at first degree level, or higher, in Computer Science, Information Systems and Computer/Communications Engineering, which must include study-units in the following areas to ensure a sufficiently broad knowledge base in the subject: Programming beyond an introductory level in any high-level programming language, Computer Logic and Organisation, Database Management Systems, Systems Analysis and Design, Data Structures and Algorithms, and Operating Systems.

Applicants who have successfully completed study-units in at least four of the above areas shall be required to follow an additional study-unit in each of the remaining areas they have not covered during their previous degree courses.

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**Sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) shall be added for courses commencing in October 2016 or later:**

(c) For **English**: a minimum of 60 ECTS credits at first degree level in (a) English language and linguistics, and (b) English literature, with at least 20 ECTS credits in each of the two areas.

(d) For **Maltese**: a minimum of 60 ECTS credits at first degree level in (a) Maltese language and linguistics, and (b) Maltese literature, with at least 20 ECTS credits in each of the two areas.”

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**For courses commencing in October 2016 or later the following sub-paragraph (c) shall be re-numbered as sub-paragraph (e).**

(e) for **Personal and Social Development**: a first cycle degree in Psychology, Youth Studies or Social Work or a minimum of 30 ECTS credits at first cycle degree level in either Anthropology, Philosophy or Sociology in combination with 30 ECTS credits in Psychology.
Sub-paragraph (f) shall be added for courses commencing in October 2016 or later:

(f) For Religious Education: at least 60 ECTS credits of taught study-units in Theology or in an area considered relevant by the Board of Studies, of which at least 12 ECTS credits in Biblical Studies, 12 ECTS credits in Christian Fundamental Beliefs and 12 ECTS credits in Christian Morality.

For courses commencing in October 2016 or later the following sub-paragraphs (d) to (f) shall be re-numbered as sub-paragraphs (g) to (i).

(g) for Science: as from October 2013 onwards, a minimum of 60 ECTS credits at first degree level in one or more of the following areas of study: Biology, Chemistry and Physics; up to a maximum of 30 ECTS credits in Mathematics could be considered when offered in combination with Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics;

(h) for Social Studies: a first degree with a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in Sociology or Social Studies; and

(i) for Technical Subjects: a first degree with a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in two of the following areas of study: Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Mechanical Engineering, or in any other area considered to be related by the Board of Studies.

(5) In addition to the requirements indicated in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this regulation, applicants for the Course offered on a part-time basis are also required to be in possession of either:

(a) four uninterrupted years of teaching experience in the subject area in a licensed secondary school; or

(b) a Master’s degree in the subject area obtained following a Bachelor’s degree in the subject area; or

(c) a doctoral degree in the subject area.

Course of Studies

5. (1) The Course shall extend over one year of full-time study or its equivalent in part-time study. The Board may allow students to extend their studies by up to one further year.

(2) The Course shall consist of the following components to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned:
(a) study-units to which 36 ECTS credits shall be assigned in the following areas of study, provided that for students admitted to the Course from October 2012 onwards, a total of 38 ECTS credits shall be assigned:

- Education Studies (including Educational Psychology, Philosophy of Education, Sociology of Education)
- Educational Technology, Design and Innovation
- Inclusive Education
- Pedagogy and Curriculum Studies; and

(b) School Experience (10 ECTS credits) and Teaching Practice (14 ECTS credits, provided that for students admitted to the Course from October 2012 onwards, a total of 12 ECTS credits shall be assigned to the Teaching Practice.

(3) The Board shall stipulate which study-units students shall follow in order to complete the appropriate programme of study. The programme of study shall be published by the Board after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

**School Experience**

6. (1) Students shall be required to undertake School Experience throughout the Course in order to acquaint themselves with the world of the school and the classroom.

(2) The School Experience shall be assessed according to the grading scheme indicated in paragraph (2) of regulation 9.

**Teaching Practice**

7. (1) Students shall be required to undertake two periods of Teaching Practice in secondary schools throughout the Course in order to gain experience in the classroom.

(2) The Teaching Practice shall be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

(3) The Board is to assign at least two additional examiners to each student. The main additional examiner is requested to present the assessment reports for the consideration of the Teaching Practice Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners shall, in terms of the University Assessment Regulations, determine the procedure to be adopted for the conduct of the examinations and may conduct assessment visits to particular students as they deem fit.

(4) (a) Students who, for health reasons, fail to attend for up to four days should present a medical certificate within 24 hours to the Office of Professional Practice. The medical certificate, drawn up by a Medical Doctor, should clearly state
the ailment which is preventing the student from attending school and should include the name and the Medical Registration Number of the Medical Doctor.

(b) Where students are away from school for up to four days for any valid reason, including health reasons, as well as in special circumstances for which prior approval would have been given, they shall be requested to make up for any missed teaching duties in accordance with instructions issued by the Office of Professional Practice and the Head of Department concerned.

(c) Students who fail to attend five days or more shall have to undergo a full Teaching Practice Placement during an additional year of study.

**Catalogue of Study-Units**

8. The Board shall draw up a catalogue of study-units. The catalogue shall indicate the code, title, description and type of each study-unit, the credits assigned to each study-unit, which study-units are compulsory, concurrent or pre-requisites for other study-units, and the methods of teaching and assessment. The Board shall publish the catalogue for the Course prior to its commencement, following the approval of Senate.

**Assessment**

9. (1) Students shall satisfy the requirements for the award of the Certificate if they obtain:

(a) 36 ECTS credits for study-units in the areas of study indicated in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2) of regulation 5, including those assigned to the compulsory study-units, provided that for students admitted to the Course from October 2012 onwards, a total of 38 ECTS credits shall be assigned; and

(b) the 10 ECTS credits assigned to the School Experience and the 14 ECTS credits assigned to the Teaching Practice, provided that for students admitted to the Course from October 2012 onwards, a total of 12 ECTS credits shall be assigned to the Teaching Practice.

(2) Results for the assessment of the taught study-units and the School Experience shall be published as a percentage mark and grade as indicated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95% - 100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 94%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% - 79%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 74%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65% - 69%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Both the percentage mark and the grade shall be recorded in the students’ academic record.

10. (1) Students who fail in any study-unit shall be allowed a supplementary assessment, provided that students admitted to the Course from October 2012 onwards shall be allowed a supplementary assessment of failed taught study-units to which not more than 16 ECTS credits are assigned, including the credits assigned to the School Experience and Teaching Practice.

(2) Supplementary assessment of failed taught study-units shall be allowed on one occasion only during the same academic year the unit has been followed, provided that the students had satisfied the attendance requirement of the study-unit and the deadlines for submission of coursework, and provided they are eligible in terms of these regulations.

(3) Supplementary assessments of taught study-units shall be held as follows:

(a) for the continuous assessment mode: coursework must be completed and handed in by the end of the September supplementary assessment session; and

(b) for the examination mode: at the supplementary session of examinations held in September.

(4) Students who fail in the School Experience or in the Teaching Practice shall be required to repeat them once only in an additional year of study.

(5) In any supplementary assessment, the maximum mark/grade that may be awarded shall be 45%, grade D.

(6) Students who after the supplementary session need not more than 10 credits, including those assigned to the School Experience and Teaching Practice, in order to successfully complete the Course may refer the failed study-unit/s to an additional year of study.

(7) Students who fail the assessment of a referred taught study-unit in the first session of examinations of the additional year of study shall be allowed a final re-assessment in the September supplementary session, provided that they are eligible in terms of these regulations.
(8) Students who fail the Course are not allowed to register a second time.

Award of Certificate

11. (1) Students who satisfy the assessment criteria as laid down in paragraph (1) of regulation 10 shall be eligible for the award of the Certificate.

(2) The names of successful students shall be published in a list in alphabetical order.

12. The provisions of the foregoing regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Course followed on a part-time basis, and subject to such changes as may reasonably be deemed necessary by the Board due to the part-time nature of the Course.

Repeal

13. The Postgraduate Certificate in Education – P.G.C.E. – Course Regulations, 2001, published as Legal Notice 279 of 2001, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 30th September 2006, provided that students registered for this Course before the 1st October 2006 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the Course.