

Legal Notice 413 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette 19,172 – 26 November 2013  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 373 of 2014 - Malta Government Gazette 19,323 – 10 October 2014  
Legal Notice 371 of 2015 - Malta Government Gazette 19,503 – 20 November 2015

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**The title of this course has been changed from “Master in Applied Oceanography - under the auspices of the International Ocean Institute” to “Master of Science in Applied Oceanography – M.Sc.” – under the auspices of the Faculty of Science” for courses commencing in October 2014 or later**

**Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Applied Oceanography – M.Sc. -under the auspices of the Faculty of Science**

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 Faculty of Science in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by Article 81(1)(c) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by article 81 (2) of the said Act:

**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 Master of Science in Applied Oceanography – M.Sc. – under the auspices of the Faculty of Science.

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

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

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies responsible for the academic administration and organisation of the Course, appointed by Senate, which shall also include two experts of international repute in the area of the programme;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Applied Oceanography – M.Sc.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Science in Applied Oceanography – M.Sc.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Oceanography – P.G. Dip.; and

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

### **Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2013 or later.

### **Requirements for Admission**

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a first cycle degree from this University in Science, Engineering, Architecture or Information Technology, or any other area deemed relevant by the Board.

(2) In exceptional cases the Admissions Board, on the recommendation of the Board, may admit into the Course applicants not in possession of a Bachelor degree, provided that it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other academic qualifications and experience that together are deemed to be comparable to the qualifications listed in paragraph (1) of this bye-law. The admission of applicants under this bye-law may be made conditional on the results of an interview conducted by a board appointed for the purpose.

(3) Knowledge of Mathematics and programming skills is strongly recommended.

(4) The interviewing board appointed by the Board of Studies shall be composed of at least three members.

### **Course Duration**

4. The Course shall extend over three semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

### **Programme of Study**

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

(2) Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the 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 dissertation, 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) Students who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (2) of this bye-law, or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

7. Students shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit subject to obtaining the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the taught study-units with a minimum average mark of 65%.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2014 or later:**

7. Students shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit subject to obtaining the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the taught study-units with a minimum average mark of 60%.

### **Dissertation**

8. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of a minimum of 20,000 words and not exceeding 30,000 words, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) 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.

(3) A provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the end of the second semester.

9. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor, not less than once a month.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. 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 the 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.

### **Classification of the Awards**

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

### **Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses**

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