

Legal Notice 297 of 2008 - Malta Government Gazette No.18,342 - 18 November 2008
Amended by:
Legal Notice 250 of 2017 - Malta Government Gazette No.19,867 – 22 September 2017

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2008 in terms of the
General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008
for the Degree of Master of Arts in Religious Studies
under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology**

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 bye-laws made by the Board of the Faculty of Theology in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 81 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by section 81 (2) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2008 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Religious Studies under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Theology;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Religious Studies;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Arts in Religious Studies;

"the Postgraduate Certificate" means the Postgraduate Certificate in Religious Studies; 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 2008 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered mainly by research in any area of Religious Studies in which the Board can offer expert guidance and supervision. Subject to the availability of resources, the areas of study shall be indicated by the Board before the commencement of the Course.

Requirements for Admission

4. The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor degree with at least a Second Class Honours in Religious Studies or in Theology or in an area of study which the Board deems suitable for the proposed area of research; or

(b) a Bachelor degree with Category II or better in an area of study which the Board deems suitable for the proposed area of research.

Preparatory Programme

5. (1) Admission of applicants under paragraph (b) of bye-law 4 shall be made conditional on the result of an interview and in such cases the Board shall require applicants to successfully complete a preparatory programme of 30 credits obtained with an average mark of 55% or better prior to their registration in the Course.

(2) Applicants under paragraph (a) of bye-law 4 whose first degree is not in Religious Studies or in Theology may also be required to successfully complete a preparatory programme of 30 credits obtained with an average mark of 55% or better prior to their registration in the Course.

(3) Preparatory programmes shall also be governed by the Principal Regulations.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

7. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which 30 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 60 credits assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

8. Students who obtain the 30 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 Certificate.

9. 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

10. (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 fail in the assessment of not more than 10 credits for taught study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail in more than 10 credits or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

11. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:
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<p>11. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 20,000 - 30,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.</p>
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(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken throughout the Course after approval of the proposal. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

12. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(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 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 Award

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

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

14. 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 as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

MA Rel Studies-BL-2008
12 August 2008