

Legal Notice 306 of 2009 - Malta Government Gazette No.18,500 - 30 October 2009
Amended by:
Legal Notice 488 of 2012 – Malta Government Gazette No.19,009 – 28 December 2012
Legal Notice 120 of 2014 - Malta Government Gazette No.19,235 – 11 April 2014

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the
General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008
for the Degree of Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences
under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery**

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 Medicine and Surgery in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) 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 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Biomedical Sciences; 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 2009 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered in any one of the following areas of study:

Blood Transfusion Science, Haematology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Microbiology, and Neuroscience, or in any other area of study which the Board deems to be relevant, after approval by Senate.

4. The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for each area of study offered in the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

5. If there are more eligible applicants than the number of places available, applicants shall be selected after an interview by an interviewing board appointed by the Board and which shall be composed of at least three members. The interviewing board shall take into consideration the following criteria as indicated below:

- (a) degree type and class/category;
- (b) experience in the area of the proposed study; and
- (c) performance during the interview.

Requirements for Admission

6. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a degree in Medicine and Surgery; or

(b) the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery; or

(c) the degree of Master of Dental Surgery awarded from July 2018 onwards; or

(d) any other degree in an area of study which the Board deems to be relevant, with at least Second Class Honours, including the degrees of Bachelor of Science of the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Health Sciences; the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy; the degree of Bachelor of Science (Pharmaceutical Science); and the degree of Bachelor of Psychology.

(2) The Board may provide for the admission of applicants, who are in possession of a degree, and do not satisfy the entry requirements as laid down in paragraph (1) of this bye-law, provided that they have other qualifications and

relevant experience, and successfully complete a preparatory programme as specified in bye-law 7.

Preparatory Programme

7. (1) The preparatory programme shall comprise study-units to which 30 credits shall be assigned, and shall also be governed by the Principal Regulations.

(2) Students shall be required to successfully complete the preparatory programme of study with an average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration in the Course.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

9. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits shall be assigned.

10. The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research.

11. (1) Mainly taught programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 credits are assigned.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 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 a Postgraduate Diploma.

12. Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a maximum of 30 credits are assigned and research study-units to which 60 credits or more are assigned.

13. The programmes 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

14. (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) Study-units shall be examined by a Board of Examiners composed of three academic members, including the co-ordinator of the study-unit.

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

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

Dissertations

15. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students shall be required to submit a dissertation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) 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 beginning of the second semester.

16. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to submit a dissertation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken 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.

17. (1) In all cases, students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each full-time student under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, or at the end of the academic year, if the student follows the Course on a part-time basis. Such reports may include recommendations 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

18. 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

19. 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.