

Legal Notice 482 of 2010 - Malta Government Gazette No. 18,671 – 12 November 2010  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 394 of 2012 - Malta Government Gazette No. 18,987 – 13 November 2012  
Legal Notice 377 of 2014 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,323 – 10 October 2014  
Legal Notice 187 of 2016 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,579 – 24 May 2016  
Legal Notice 54 of 2017 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,723 – 7 February 2017  
Legal Notice 10 of 2020 - Malta Government Gazette No. 20,332 – 17 January 2020

## **EDUCATION ACT (CAP. 327)**

### **Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Counselling – M.Couns. - under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing**

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 for Social Wellbeing 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 2014 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Counselling – M.Couns. - offered under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies, appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Board;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master in Counselling – M.Couns.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master in Counselling – M.Couns.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Studies - P.G.Dip. (Couns. Stud.); 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 2010 or later.

### **Requirements for Admission**

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours or Category II in one of the human and/or social sciences, or a related area subject to the approval of the Board, together with a minimum of one year's experience working directly in a formal human or psycho-social setting.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours or Category II in one of the human and/or social sciences, or an area of study deemed relevant by the Board, together with a minimum of one year's experience working directly in a formal human or psycho-social setting.

(2) All applicants shall be required to demonstrate that they have the necessary aptitude and disposition to follow the Course with profit.

(3) (a) Professional aptitude and disposition shall be measured by means of exercises involving an extended personal interview and personality test.

(b) Applicants who obtain less than 60% for the professional aptitude and the disposition criterion shall automatically not be admitted into the Course.

(4) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for 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) 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, which shall be weighted as follows:

- (a) degree type and classification – 30%;
- (b) experience in the area of the proposed study – 15%; and
- (c) professional aptitude and disposition – 55%.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:**

(5) 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, which shall be weighted as follows:

- (a) degree type and classification – 30%;
- (b) experience in areas related to counselling – 15%;
- (c) postgraduate qualifications in a relevant area – 5% and
- (d) professional aptitude and disposition – 50%.

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

(7) For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications as stipulated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

**Course Duration**

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

**Programme of Study**

5. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 120 credits are assigned, of which 90 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits are assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

(2) Students who obtain 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) Throughout the Course, students are required to complete 20 hours of personal counselling with a counsellor of their choice from an approved list.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:**

(3) Throughout the Course, students are required to complete 50 hours of personal counselling with a counsellor of their choice from an approved list.

(4) 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.

## **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 four taught study-units in the case of the full-time Course shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail in more than the number of study-units permitted under paragraph (2) 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.

(4) Students must maintain a good level of performance in the study-unit/s involving the supervised practicum for which the minimum pass mark shall be grade C – 55%.

(5) Students who fail to pass in the supervised practicum shall not have the right to a supplementary assessment in the same academic year but shall be required to re-do the practicum during an additional year of studies. Such an additional year shall not be counted for the purpose of Course duration.

## **Dissertation**

7. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:**

7. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of between a minimum of 18,000 and a maximum of 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third and fourth semesters 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 of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board of Studies for approval by not later than the end of the third semester.

### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:**

(4) Students are required to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to the instructions and guidelines as set out in the Dissertation Handbook provided by the Department of Counselling and approved by the Board.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies 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 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 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 or Principal Regulations; and

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

### **Classification of the Awards**

9. 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**

10. 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.

### **Repeal**

11. The Regulations of 2008 for the Degree of Master in Counselling, published as Legal Notice 216 of 2008, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2010, provided that students registered for this course before 1st October 2010 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.