

Legal Notice 483 of 2012 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,009 – 28 December 2012  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 209 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,111 – 19 July 2013  
Legal Notice 350 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,489 – 27 October 2015

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for  
University Postgraduate Awards, 2008  
for the degree of Master in Accountancy – M.Accty -  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Economics, Management and  
Accountancy**

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 Economics, Management and Accountancy 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 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Accountancy – M.Accty - offered under the auspices of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy;

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

“the Degree” means the degree of Master in Accountancy – M.Accty;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy; 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 2012 or later.

### **Requirements for Admission**

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

(a) the degree of Bachelor of Commerce from this University with at least Category II, and have obtained a minimum average mark of 65% in the study-units assigned to the second and third year of the Accountancy main area of study; or

(b) an equivalent qualification in Accountancy awarded by another university or professional accountancy body, provided that such applicants may be required to follow a preparatory programme as directed by the Board.

(2) Applicants in possession of the degree of Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) or the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accountancy with at least Second Class Honours shall be eligible to apply for a 40 ECTS-credit programme of study.

(3) Applicants in possession of the degree of Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) or the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accountancy with Third Class Honours shall be eligible to apply for a 40 ECTS-credit programme of study provided that they submit a portfolio covering at least three years’ practice in the accountancy field.

(4) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the 40 ECTS-credit programme, 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 of applicants that may be admitted to the 40 ECTS-credit Course is limited in terms of paragraph (4) of this bye-law, and the number of applicants who satisfy the requirements specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this bye-law exceeds the number of places available, selection shall be made solely on the basis of academic merit achieved in the Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) or the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accountancy degrees.

***Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:***

**Requirements for Admission**

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

(1) the Bachelor of Commerce degree from this University with one of the two main areas of study being Accountancy, obtained with a Category II classification and with a minimum average mark of 65% obtained in the study-units of Years 2 and 3 of the Accountancy main area of study; *or*

(2) the Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) degree or the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Accountancy (both awarded after successful completion of the three-year Bachelor of Commerce degree course) obtained with at least Second Class Honours, who shall be eligible to apply for a programme of study of 40 ECTS credits; *or*

(3) the Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) degree or the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Accountancy (both awarded after successful completion of the three-year Bachelor of Commerce degree course) obtained with Third Class Honours, subject to the submission of a portfolio covering at least 3 years' experience in the accountancy field, or a certificate showing that they are holders of the Certified Public Accountant Warrant issued by the Accountancy Board (Malta), who shall be eligible to apply for a programme of study of 40 ECTS credits.

(4) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the 40 ECTS-credit programme, 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 of applicants that may be admitted to the 40 ECTS-credit programme is limited in terms of paragraph (4) of this bye-law, and the number of applicants who satisfy the requirements specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this bye-law exceeds the number of places available, selection shall be made solely on the basis of academic merit achieved in the Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) or the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accountancy degrees.

***For courses commencing in October 2017 or later, this bye-law 4 shall be deleted.***

**Preparatory Programme**

4. (1) Applicants admitted under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 3 may be required to complete a preparatory programme, comprising study-units to which not less than 30 ECTS credits are assigned, with an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

(2) The Board may grant students full or partial exemption from the requirement of the Preparatory Programme if it is satisfied that the students possess post-first cycle qualification work experience that is relevant to the Course.

*For courses commencing in October 2017 or later, bye-laws 5 to 11 shall be renumbered as bye-laws 4 to 10.*

### **Course Duration**

5. (1) The Course shall extend over four semesters of full-time study.

(2) The programme of study for graduates in possession of the degree of Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) or the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accountancy shall extend over a maximum of four consecutive semesters of part-time study.

*Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:*

### **Course Duration**

4. (1) The Course shall extend over four semesters of full-time study, comprising study-units to which 120 ECTS credits are assigned.

(2) The Course for applicants applying in terms of paragraphs (2) and (3) of bye-law 3 shall extend over a maximum period of four consecutive semesters of part-time study, comprising study-units to which 40 ECTS credits are assigned.”

### **Programme of Study**

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

(2) Students who obtain 60 ECTS 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 dissertation, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

(3) In cases where students lack essential knowledge in the area of research methodology, the Board may require students admitted to the Course to follow and pass supplementary study-unit/s in the said area to which a maximum of 10 ECTS credits are assigned in addition to the programme of study specified in paragraph (1) of this bye-law.

(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.

(5) The programme of study referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of bye-law 3 which shall comprise study-units to which a total of 40 ECTS credits are assigned, shall be determined by the Board and approved by Senate.

### **Assessment and Progress**

7. (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 the course of the academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits for taught study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session, provided that students registered on the 40 ECTS-credit programme shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments if they fail not more than 10 ECTS credits for taught study-units during the course of the academic year.

(3) Students who fail in 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 deemed to have failed the Course.

### **Dissertation**

8. (1) Students registered on the full-time Course shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third and fourth semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisors 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 for approval by the end of the second semester.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for students under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies. 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 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. (1) 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.

(2) The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Degree for students who follow the 40 ECTS-credit programme of study shall also be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.”

### **Repeal**

11. The Regulations of 1998 for the degree of Bachelor of Accountancy (Honours) – B.Accty. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, published as Legal Notice 108 of 1998, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, provided that students registered for this course before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.