

Legal Notice 328 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette 19,310 – 16 September 2014  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 252 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette 19,461 – 7 August 2015

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**For courses commencing in October 2015 or later the title of these bye-laws shall read as follows:**

**Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy**

**Instead of:**

**Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Astroinformatics - M.Sc. – under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy**

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 Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 8 (b) (v) of the Statute for the Institute which bye-laws have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta:

**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 of Science in Astroinformatics - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Astroinformatics - M.Sc.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Science in Astroinformatics - M.Sc.; and

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

**Applicable for courses commencing October 2015 or later:**

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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 - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.; 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 2014 or later.

**Areas of Study**

3. The Course shall be offered in any area of study that falls within the academic responsibility of the Board, after approval by Senate.

**Requirements for Admission**

4. The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physics or Computational Physics or Statistics, with at least Second Class (Honours); or

(b) the degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), with at least Second Class (Honours); or

(c) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in ICT, with at least Second Class (Honours); or

(d) a Bachelor degree with at least a Second Class (Honours) in a discipline related to Astroinformatics; or

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2015 or later:**

(d) a Bachelor degree with at least a Second Class (Honours) in a discipline related to the proposed area of study; or

(e) a qualification deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to be comparable to the qualifications listed in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) above.

**Course Duration**

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

**Programme of Study**

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

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2015 or later:**

6. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 ECTS credits are assigned, of which not more than 30 ECTS credits are assigned to taught study-units and not less than 60 ECTS credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

(2) The programme of study shall be published after approval 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 any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 10 ECTS credits for taught study-units, whether following the Course on

a full-time or part-time basis, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail 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 required to withdraw from the Course.

### **Dissertation**

8. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 35,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course, after approval of the research proposal. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) The provisional title of the dissertation and a research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval at the time of application.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2015 or later:**

8. (1) Students following a programme which includes the writing of a dissertation to which 80 ECTS credits are assigned shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of between 40,000 to 45,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) The provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval at the time of application.

(3) Students following a programme which includes the writing of a dissertation to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of not less than 35,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(4) The provisional title of the dissertation and a research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval at the end of the first semester.

(5) In both cases work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course, after approval of the research proposal. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

9. (1) The Board shall appoint a Panel of Supervision for each student, normally composed of three members as follows: the Director of the Institute, or his/her delegate as Chairman, and two other members, one of whom being the

principal supervisor, provided that when the Director of the Institute is the supervisor, s/he shall not chair the panel.

(2) The Panel of Supervision shall follow, as it deems fit, the progress of students throughout the Course, provided that it meets at least twice a year to review such progress.

(3) Students shall be required to report to their supervisors at least once every two months, and in addition as often as the supervisor deems necessary.

(4) At the end of each semester of studies supervisors shall be required to submit to the Panels of Supervision reports for the students under their supervision, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. Students shall seek approval from said Panel for any substantial modification in the title or content of the dissertation.

(5) The Panels of Supervision shall periodically inform the Board, in writing, on the general performance of each student. 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) this 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**

10. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification 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 relevant Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.