

Legal Notice 309 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,500 – 30 October 2009  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 418 of 2013 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,172 – 26 November 2013  
Legal Notice 318 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,305 – 4 September 2014  
Legal Notice 354 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,489 – 27 October 2015  
Legal Notice 205 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,248 – 13 August 2019

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the  
Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts**

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 Arts 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 Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Arts;

“the Degree” means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.; and

“the Faculty” means the Faculty of Arts;

“the Principal Regulations” means the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008.

**Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from October 2008 onwards.

**Requirements for Admission**

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees:

(a) a Master's degree in the same area of study or in a related area; or

(b) a First Class Honours degree in the same area of study or in a related area.

(2) The Board may also consider applications from applicants with qualifications at Master's level or higher in another discipline and possessing experience or knowledge which in the opinion of the Board, will enable them to pursue doctoral studies successfully.

**For courses commencing in October 2015 or later:**

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees:

(a) a Pass with Merit (or equivalent) in a Master's degree in the same area of study or in a related area. In the case of applicants who hold a Master's degree from this or another university, where it is not possible to determine the equivalence of a Pass with Merit, the Board may determine ad hoc procedures in order to establish such equivalence. The advice of the department responsible for the area of study shall be obtained in all cases; or

(b) a First Class Honours degree in the same area of study or in a related area.

(2) The Board may also consider applications from applicants with qualifications at Master's level or higher in any discipline and possessing experience or knowledge which, in the opinion of the Board, will enable them to pursue doctoral studies successfully.

**Applicable from October 2019 onwards:**

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees:

(a) a Pass with Merit (or equivalent) in a Master's degree in the same area of study or in a related area. In the case of applicants who hold a Master's degree from this or another university, where it is not possible to determine the equivalence of a Pass with Merit, the Board may determine ad hoc procedures in order to establish such equivalence. The advice of the department responsible for the area of study shall be obtained in all cases; or

(b) a First Class Honours degree in the same area of study or in a related area.

(2) The Board may also consider applications from applicants in possession of a Master's degree with a Pass classification in the same area of study or in a related area or with qualifications at Master's level or higher in any discipline if they also possess experience or knowledge which, in the opinion of the Board, will enable them to pursue doctoral studies successfully.

4. When the Board deems it necessary, it may require students to successfully complete a number of study-units during the course of their studies, and/or to satisfactorily undertake tasks recommended by the Board, under those conditions that it may impose, after approval by Senate.

5. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a comprehensive research proposal outlining the proposed project, including research sources and materials, at any time of the year.

(2) Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate competence in those skills required by the nature of the proposed research. The advice of the department responsible for the area of study shall be obtained in all cases.

#### **Faculty Doctoral Committee**

6. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Faculty Doctoral Committee composed of 3 - 5 members, including the Dean or his delegate, who shall chair the Committee, the other members being normally heads of department. The Faculty Doctoral Committee may co-opt other members if deemed necessary.

#### **Supervision and Students' Progress**

7. Principal Supervisors shall be required to submit a written report to the Board, through the Faculty Doctoral Committee, every June for all students under their supervision.

8. Students shall only be allowed to proceed with their studies subject to satisfactory progress reports from their Principal Supervisor. If the report is negative, the Board shall make recommendations to Senate on the student's continuing registration for the Degree.

9. (1) Before being allowed to transfer registration to a Ph.D. status, students are required to submit a substantial sample of their research work for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The *ad hoc* board shall be composed of a chairman, who shall be the head of the department concerned or his delegate, and two examiners, one of whom shall be the Principal Supervisor.

(2) The *ad hoc* board shall examine the student on the basis of the work submitted and shall submit a written report for consideration by the Faculty Doctoral Committee in the first instance. The report shall contain recommendations according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

10. Students registered at the Faculty may be required to participate in the Faculty's research and teaching programmes.

### **Thesis Presentation and Format**

11. Students shall be required to inform the Faculty that they will be submitting their thesis for examination not less than three months before the submission deadline.

12. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of the Board of Examiners in accordance with the Principal Regulations.

13. The Board shall approve and publish guidelines on the format and presentation of the thesis for the Degree.

14. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their thesis for each member of the Board of Examiners, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Faculty shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Faculty three hard bound copies of the thesis and one copy in digital format within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the thesis shall be kept in the Library of the department and another at the University Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree.

### **Repeal**

15. The Bye-Laws of 1997 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts, published as Legal Notice 186 of 1997, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2008, provided that students registered for this degree before 1st October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their registration for the degree.

