

Legal Notice 340 of 2015 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,487 – 20 October 2015  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 198 of 2016 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,581 – 26 May 2016

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the  
General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004  
for the Higher Diploma in Health Science – H.Dip. –  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences**

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 Health Sciences in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 81 (1) (c) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by section 81 (2) of the said Act:

**Citation and Interpretation**

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the Higher Diploma in Health Science – H.Dip. – under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the Higher Diploma in Health Science – H.Dip.;

“the Higher Diploma” means the Higher Diploma in Health Science – H.Dip.;

“the Principal Regulations” means the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004.

**Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2015 or later.

## **Special Course Requirements**

3. To be registered as regular students in the Course, applicants must have obtained all the credits of the Preparatory Course, specifically related to the proposed area of study in the Higher Diploma, which shall extend over a period of one year of full-time study, immediately prior to the commencement of the Course. If by the end of the Preparatory Course, students do not successfully complete all the study-units and obtain the 60 ECTS credits they shall not be admitted to the Course.

4. The requirements for admission and successful completion of the Preparatory Course are listed in Appendix I to these bye-laws.

5. Applicants who are eligible to join the Course in terms of article 8 of Appendix I to these bye-laws may be assessed for their suitability to follow their chosen area of study.

## **Course Duration**

6. The Course shall extend over a period of two years of full-time study taken after successful completion of a Preparatory Course of one year's duration.

## **Areas of Study**

7. The Higher Diploma may be awarded in terms of these bye-laws in Nursing Studies or in any other area related to the Health Sciences, following the approval of Senate.

8. The areas of study offered in any particular year shall be published by the Board before the commencement of each Course.

9. Senate, on the advice of the Board, may limit the number of students that may be admitted to the Course in any or all of the areas of study and shall approve bye-laws for the selection of applicants to the Course in the area/s of study where the number of students that may be admitted is limited.

## **Course Programme**

10. The programme of study for each area of study, which shall comprise study-units to which 120 ECTS credits are assigned, shall have two distinct, although interdependent components: one theoretical and the other practical/clinical.

11. Subject to changes that the Board may, with the approval of Senate, be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the programme of study of the area of study they are following for the Higher Diploma, provided that programmes of study are drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Principal Regulations.

### **Conditions for Re-assessment of Practical/Clinical Study-Units**

12. (1) Students who fail a clinical practice study-unit or a study-unit involving a practical placement may be required to repeat the study-unit during the summer months before being re-assessed, or if such an arrangement is found not to be possible, re-do the study-unit in an additional year of study.

(2) The conditions for the re-assessment of such study-units shall be indicated in the description of each study-unit that is published in the catalogue.

### **Classification of the Award**

13. (1) The overall evaluation of each student's performance shall be based on the results obtained in each year of the Course, weighted according to the following criteria:

First Year Average Mark	40%
Second Year Average Mark	60%.

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Higher Diploma shall be published in a list in alphabetical order classified as follows:

- Pass with Distinction
- Pass with Merit
- Pass.

**The Preparatory Course**

1. In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Course specifically related to one of the areas of study in the Higher Diploma outlined in bye-law 3, applicants are required to be in possession of one of the following:

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

1. In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Course specifically related to one of the areas of study in the Higher Diploma outlined in bye-law 3, applicants are required to be in possession of one of the following:

(a) passes at Grade 5 or better in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in six subjects, including Maltese, English Language, Mathematics, and a Science subject; or

(b) the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies), or equivalent, provided that applicants wishing to join a Preparatory Course leading to admission to the Higher Diploma course with Nursing Studies as the area of study may, instead, present the Certificate in Nursing Practice awarded by the Institute of Health Care, or the Certificate of Enrolled Nurse awarded by the Department of Health.

***For courses commencing in October 2016 or later:***

1. In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Course specifically related to one of the areas of study in the Higher Diploma outlined in bye-law 3, applicants are required to be in possession of one of the following:

(a) passes at Grade 5 or better in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in six subjects, including Maltese, English Language, Mathematics, and Biology; or

(b) the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies), or equivalent, provided that applicants wishing to join a Preparatory Course leading to admission to the Higher Diploma course with Nursing Studies as the area of study may, instead, present the Certificate in Nursing Practice awarded by the Institute of Health Care, or the Certificate of Enrolled Nurse awarded by the Department of Health.

***For courses commencing in October 2017 or later:***

1. In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Course specifically related to one of the areas of study in the Higher Diploma outlined in bye-law 3, applicants are required to be in possession of one of the following:

(a) passes at Grade 5 or better in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in six subjects, including Maltese, English Language, Mathematics, and Biology; or

(b) the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, or equivalent,

provided that applicants wishing to join a Preparatory Course leading to admission to the Higher Diploma course with Nursing Studies as the area of study may, instead, present the Certificate in Nursing Practice awarded by the Institute of Health Care, or the Certificate of Enrolled Nurse awarded by the Department of Health.

2. Applicants are further required to be aged not less than 18 years within three months following the date on which the Preparatory Course commences.

3. Prior to registering for the Preparatory Course, eligible applicants are also required to undergo a medical fitness test as directed by the Board so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies.

4. The Preparatory Course shall consist of a number of study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned and shall extend over a period of one year of full-time study.

5. Subject to changes that the Board, with the approval of Senate, may be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the programme of study for the Preparatory Course they are following.

6. Students shall be considered as having successfully completed the Preparatory Course if they obtain the credits as outlined in the programme of study and obtain an average mark of 55%.

7. The provisions regarding assessment, progression and successful completion of the Preparatory Course, and any other provisions not outlined in this Appendix to these bye-laws shall be those stipulated in the Principal Regulations and shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.