

Legal Notice 352 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,320 – 3rd October 2014  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 249 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,461 – 7 August 2015  
Legal Notice 185 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,579 – 24 May 2016  
Legal Notice 220 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,857 – 1 September 2017  
Legal Notice 321 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,904 – 21 November 2017  
Legal Notice 275 of 2018 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,038 – 14 August 2018  
Legal Notice 234 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,266 – 17 September 2019  
Legal Notice 17 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,332 – 17th January 2020  
Legal Notice 276 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,428 – 26th June 2020  
As approved by Senate of 12 May 2022

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

### **Certificate in Foundation Studies Course Regulations, 2014**

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 regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by articles 75 and 79 of the said Act:

#### **Citation and Interpretation**

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Certificate in Foundation Studies Course Regulations, 2014.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires –

“the Board” means the Board of the International School for Foundation Studies;

"the Board of Studies" means the Board of Studies appointed for the Course by Senate on the recommendation of the Board;

"the Certificate" means the Certificate in Foundation Studies;

"the Course" means the programmes of study leading to the Certificate in Foundation Studies; and

“the School” means the International School for Foundation Studies.

#### **Applicability**

2. These regulations shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2014 or later.

## Registration for the Course

3. (1) The Course shall be open to all applicants who:

(a) present a secondary and/or high school certificate issued abroad and who studied within an educational system that is not comparable to the Maltese educational system (in terms of curriculum, years of study, etc.); and

(b) are in possession of one of the following qualifications in English at the required level:

(i) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-Based Test (iBT) with an overall score of 61, and a minimum score of 17 in the reading and writing components; or

(ii) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with an overall band score of 5.5, with a reading and writing score of at least 5.0; or

(iii) Cambridge First Certificate at grade C or better; or

(iv) any other equivalent qualification approved by the Admissions Board; and

(c) are in possession of qualifications allowing access to an undergraduate course in the selected discipline in the country where such qualifications originate; but

(d) are deemed to require further study to be admitted to undergraduate degree courses at the University of Malta, provided that the Medical and Dental Sciences and the Health Sciences programmes referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 6 shall be open only to qualified applicants from non-EU/EEA countries in terms of agreements signed by the University with the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to qualified nationals from other non-EU/EEA countries.

(2) At the discretion of the Board, applicants shall be required to pass an interview and/or a written test.

### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:**

(3) Applicants who are deemed ineligible to join the Course may be allowed by the Board to enrol as students in the Foundation Commencement Programme which is detailed in Appendix I to these regulations.

(4) EU, non-EU and Maltese dual citizens who previously studied abroad and then join higher secondary schools in Malta for more than one year shall not be admitted to the Course.

(5) The number of applicants from non-EU/EEA countries that may be admitted to the Course with the intention of following the Master of Dental Surgery course shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(6) 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 subject areas, according to the relevant selection criteria.

### **Duration of Course**

4. (1) The Course extends over a period of one academic year of full-time study.

(2) The Board of Studies may allow students who do not qualify for the Certificate to repeat the Course once only.

### **Board of Studies**

5. (1) The monitoring and evaluation of the programmes of study of the Course shall be entrusted to the Board of Studies in terms of paragraph (2) of regulation 6.

(2) The Board of Studies shall be composed as follows:

A Chairman, appointed by Senate  
The Director of the School  
The Area Coordinators in the School  
Three Academic Members appointed by Senate  
Student representatives elected from each subject area of the School.

School Officer (Secretary).

### **Programmes of Study**

6. (1) The programmes of study aim to bridge differences between the Maltese educational system and other systems. They shall consist of a number of study-units to which up to 65 ECTS credits are assigned and shall be offered in the following subject areas:

Humanities;

Business Studies (in areas of study approved by the Board);

Science (in areas of study approved by the Board);

Engineering and ICT;

Medical and Dental Sciences; and

Health Sciences (in areas of study approved by the Board).

(2) The Board of Studies shall draw up programmes of study indicating the code, title, type of each study-unit, and the credits assigned to each study-unit, as well as study-unit descriptions including the methods of teaching and assessment. The Board of Studies shall propose to the Board of the School the programmes of study and study-units descriptions prior to the commencement of each Course. These shall be published following the approval of Senate. Subject to the approval of Senate, the Board of Studies may make any necessary changes to the programmes of study and to the study-units descriptions as required.

### **Attendance and Assessment**

7. Attendance to all teaching sessions in whatever mode is obligatory. Students must attend at least 80% of all teaching sessions in a study-unit before being allowed to sit for the assessment, except with the permission of the Board of Studies which, in exceptional circumstances, may approve that the student be allowed to sit for the assessment/s. In cases where the student is not allowed to sit for the assessment a 0 mark and an F grade shall be assigned and recorded.

8. (1) Results for the assessment of study-units shall be published as a percentage mark and grade as indicated in the table below:

Mark Range	Grade
90% - 100%	A+
80% - 89%	A
75% - 79%	B+
70% - 74%	B
60% - 69%	C+
55% - 59%	C
50% - 54%	D+
45% - 49%	D
0% - 44%	F.

(2) Both the percentage mark and the letter grade shall be recorded in the student's academic record. The pass mark for all study-units shall be grade D 45%.

9. Students shall be re-assessed in any number of study-units during an examination session as directed by the Board of Studies. Such re-assessments shall be allowed in both passed and failed study-units. Any mark may be obtained in the reassessment session.

10. Practical work constituting the whole or part of a study-unit or work that is assessed periodically throughout a semester shall not be re-assessed.

### **Award of the Certificate**

11. (1) The Certificate, indicating the subject area followed, shall be awarded to students who successfully complete the full programme of study in one academic year.

(2) The best marks obtained in each study-unit during the same academic year shall be recorded in the students' academic record and transcript.

(3) The Certificate shall show a grade A, B, C, or D (grade A being the highest and D the lowest) indicating the standard attained by students. In calculating the average mark for the Course, each individual mark obtained for each study-unit registered for during the year shall be weighted by the credit value of the corresponding unit. The resultant marks are added and divided by the total number of credits to give the average mark for the year. This mark is then translated into a grade.

### **Access and Admission to University Undergraduate Courses**

12. (1) Students who obtain the Certificate in a particular programme are required to complete the University admissions procedure as it pertains to the undergraduate degree course being applied for. Students may only apply for undergraduate degree courses relevant to the subject area they followed in the Course.

(2) Students who intend to join the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery or the Master of Dental Surgery courses and are required to repeat the year shall not be eligible to join these two courses but on successful completion of the Course may be admitted to Bachelor courses in Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Nursing or Mental Health Nursing, provided that during the repeat year such students shall be required to follow the programme relevant to the Bachelor course they intend to join.

### **General Provision**

13. In matters not provided for by these regulations, the Board of Studies shall be guided by the provisions of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004, published as Legal Notice 127 of 2004, as applicable.

### **Repeal**

14. The Certificate in Foundation Studies Course Regulations, 2000, published as Legal Notice 192 of 2000, and the Certificate in Medical Foundation Studies (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences) Course Regulations 2013, published as Legal Notice 239 of 2010 shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2014.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:**

**Appendix I**

**Foundation Commencement Programme**

1. At the discretion of the Board, applicants who are deemed ineligible to join the Course, may be allowed to register for the Foundation Commencement Programme, prior to their acceptance as regular students on the Course.
2. The Foundation Commencement Programme 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. 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.
3. Students shall be considered as having successfully completed the Foundation Commencement Programme if they obtain the credits as outlined in the programme of study and obtain an average mark of 45%. At the discretion of the Board, students who do not fulfil this requirement may be allowed to repeat the Foundation Commencement Programme.
4. The provisions regarding assessment, progression and successful completion of the Foundation Commencement Programme, and any other provisions not outlined in this Appendix to these Regulations shall be those stipulated in the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2019 and shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.