

Legal Notice 65 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,390 – 13 March 2009  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 304 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,597 – 21 May 2010  
Legal Notice 49 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,023 – 29 January 2013  
Legal Notice 208 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,111 – 19 July 2013  
Legal Notice 329 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,154 – 18 October 2013  
Legal Notice 96 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,227 – 28 March 2014  
Legal Notice 314 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,305 – 4 September 2014  
Legal Notice 342 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,316 – 26 September 2014  
Legal Notice 271 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,466 – 21 August 2015  
Legal Notice 349 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,489 – 27 October 2015  
Legal Notice 23 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,523 – 19 January 2016  
Legal Notice 200 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,581 – 26 May 2016  
Legal Notice 359 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,671 – 1 November 2016  
Legal Notice 10 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,711 - 11 January 2017  
Legal Notice 235 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,865 - 19 September 2017

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for  
University Postgraduate Awards, 2008  
for the Degree of Master of Arts  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts**

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 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 section 81 (1) 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 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts 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 Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in the relevant area of study;

“the Postgraduate Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in the relevant area of study;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study; 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 2008 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. (1) Subject to the conditions laid down in bye-law 5, the Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in the same or in a closely related area of study as the area of study applied for, provided that applicants in possession of the Degree with Third Class Honours shall satisfy the Board that they are in possession of other qualifications, including relevant experience, obtained following the first cycle degree; or

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

(a) the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with Second Class or better in the same or in a closely related area of study as the area of study applied for; provided that the Board may consider applicants in possession of the Degree with Third Class Honours only if it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other qualifications, including relevant experience, obtained following the first cycle degree; or

(b) the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the same or in a closely related area of study as that applied for, with an average mark of not less than 65% in that area; or

(c) a degree from this or from another university which the Board considers as comparable to any of the degrees indicated in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this bye-law.

(2) In the case of a mainly taught course and depending on the nature of the programme, the Board may allow applicants possessing a degree other than those specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law to join the Course subject to an interview to establish whether they have sufficient proficiency and background to be able to profit from the Course. In certain such instances the Course Co-ordinator may recommend that applicants follow part or all of the relevant preparatory programme.

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

(2) In the case of a mainly taught course and depending on the nature of the programme, the Board may allow applicants possessing a degree other than those specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law to join the Course subject to an interview to establish whether they have sufficient proficiency and background to be able to profit from the Course.

(3) Applicants for the Course in English Language who are not in possession of an undergraduate degree in English or in a closely related area, but who hold a DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) or Dip.TESOL (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) qualification, may be eligible to follow this Course. In such cases, applicants would be expected to demonstrate, through appropriate certification and references, that they have undertaken at least 2000 hours of teaching English as a Foreign Language. Admission to this area of study would be subject to satisfactory performance at interview.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2014 or later:**

(3) Applicants for the course in English Language or for the course in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) who are not in possession of an undergraduate degree in English or in a closely related area, but who hold a DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) or Dip.TESOL (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) qualification, may be eligible to follow this course. All applicants shall be required to demonstrate, through appropriate certification and references, that they have undertaken at least 2000 hours of teaching English as a Foreign Language. Admission to these areas of studies would be subject to satisfactory performance at interview.

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

(3) Applicants for the English Language stream of the MA in English who are not in possession of an undergraduate degree in English or in a closely related area, but who hold a DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) or Dip.TESOL (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) qualification, may be eligible to follow this course. All applicants shall be required

to demonstrate, through appropriate certification and references, that they have undertaken at least 2000 hours of teaching English as a Foreign Language. Admission to this course would be subject to satisfactory performance at interview.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2016 or later:**

(3) Applicants for the English Language stream of the MA in English who are not in possession of an undergraduate degree in English or in a closely related area, but who hold a DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) or Dip.TESOL (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) qualification, may be eligible to follow this course.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2014 or later:**

(4) Applicants for the Course in Fine Arts shall be asked to provide evidence of their professional experience in Fine Arts by means of a portfolio.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2016 or later:**

(5) The Admissions Board may admit into the area of study 'Film Studies' up to two applicants not in possession of a first cycle degree, if it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of professional qualifications or experience closely related to the area of study, which in the judgement of the interviewing board enable such applicants to follow the Course with profit. The admission of such applicants shall not be subject to the selection criteria approved by Senate in terms of these bye-laws. If there are more than two such applicants, selection shall be based on the length of the relevant experience or the quality of relevant output.

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

(6) Depending on the availability of resources, the Board shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register in particular areas of study. For areas where student enrolment is limited, the Board shall announce the number of available places, and the criteria for selection of applicants at the time of the call for applications.

(7) For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications as stipulated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

## **Preparatory Programme**

5. (1) Applicants admitted under sub-paragraph (b) and if necessary (c) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 4 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme, comprising not less than 30 and not more than 60 credits as directed by the Board, depending on the number of credits already obtained in that area of study, with an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

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

5. (1) In the case of a mainly research course and depending on the nature of the programme, applicants admitted under sub-paragraphs (b) and if necessary (c) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 4 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme, comprising not less than 30 and not more than 60 ECTS credits as directed by the Board, depending on the number of ECTS credits already obtained in that area of study, with an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

(2) The Board may grant applicants full or partial exemption from the requirement of the preparatory programme if it is satisfied that the applicant possesses post first cycle degree work experience that is relevant to the area of study applied for.

## **Course Duration**

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

## **Programme of Study**

7. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits shall be assigned.

8. (1) The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research.

(2) (a) Mainly taught programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 credits are assigned.

(b) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the 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 a Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study.

(3) Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which 10 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 80 credits are assigned.

(4) Programmes 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.

**For Courses Commencing in October 2012 or later:**

8. (1) The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research.

(2) (a) Mainly taught programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 credits are assigned.

(b) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the 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 a Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study.

(c) Students who obtain 30 credits assigned to the taught study-units and do not proceed with the Course, shall be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in the relevant area of study.

(3) Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which 10 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 80 credits are assigned.

(4) In cases where applicants 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 credits are assigned in addition to the programme of study specified in bye-law 7.

(5) Programmes 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.

**Assessment and Progress**

9. (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 following the mainly taught programme of study who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits, if following the Course full-time, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course part-time, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(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 the credits for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

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

(4) Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the taught study-units with an average mark of at least 65% for those study-units for which a mark/grade is awarded, shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit.

(5) When examining a dissertation, the Board of Examiners shall follow the Marking Criteria and Descriptors as approved by the Board.

**Dissertations**

10. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students 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 semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) A provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval not later than six weeks before the end of the second semester.

11. (1) In mainly research programmes of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

**For Courses Commencing in February 2017 or later:**

11. (1) In mainly research programmes of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board, provided that in cases where a project and a dissertation are required, the dissertation shall be of between 20,000 and 25,000 words.

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

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

12. (1) In all cases, students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for the students under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. 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) the 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 Awards**

13. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and 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**

14. (1) The Board may, from time to time, offer students the opportunity to follow the Course on a part-time basis in areas of study which shall be indicated before the commencement of each Course.

(2) 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 Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

### **Repeal**

15. The Master of Arts – M.A. – Degree Course Regulations, 1999, published as Legal Notice 152 of 1999, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2008, provided that students registered for this course before 1 October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.



