

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2018 in terms of the  
General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights Law and Practice - M.A. -  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws**

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 Laws 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 2018 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights Law and Practice - M.A. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws.

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

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

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights Law and Practice - M.A.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights Law and Practice - M.A.;

“the Postgraduate Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights Law and Practice - P.G. Cert.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights Law and Practice - P.G. Dip.; 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 2018 or later.

## **Requirements for Admission**

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor degree in Law obtained with at least Second Class Honours or with at least Category II, or in social sciences, or in the political sciences, or in international relations, or in humanities; or

(b) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours or with at least Category II in any other area of study deemed relevant by the Board.

(2) The admission of applicants under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law shall be made conditional on the result of an interview conducted by an interviewing board appointed for the purpose.

(3) The interviewing board appointed by the Board shall be composed of at least three members.

## **Course Duration**

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

## **Programme of Study**

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

6. Students who obtain 30 ECTS credits assigned to 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 taught study-units, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

7. Students who obtain the 60 ECTS 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 the Postgraduate Diploma.

8. The programme of study shall be published 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 who fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits for taught study units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the part-time Course, 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 credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

## **Dissertation**

10. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 20,000 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 by the beginning of the second semester.

11. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student 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**

12. (1) The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Certificate shall be published in a list in alphabetical order.

### **Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses**

13. 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**

14. The Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratization of Governance - under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws, published as Legal Notice 321 of 2008, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, provided that students registered for this course before the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their joining the course.