

Legal Notice 285 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,498 – 23 October 2009 Amended by: Legal Notice 413 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,637 – 27 August 2010 Legal Notice 412 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,172 – 26 November 2013 Legal Notice 217 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,272 – 27 June 2014 Legal Notice 292 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,885 – 17 October 2017
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**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University
Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work –
M.A. - or Master of Arts in Social Policy – M.A. - under the auspices of the
Faculty for Social Wellbeing**

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 for Social Wellbeing 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 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work – M.A.- or Master of Arts in Social Policy – M.A.- under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work – M.A.- or Master of Arts in Social Policy – M.A.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work – M.A. - or Master of Arts in Social Policy- M.A.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work or Social Policy; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008.”

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work - M.A. - or Master of Arts in Social Policy - M.A.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work - M.A. - or Master of Arts in Social Policy - M.A.;

“the Postgraduate Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in Social Work or Social Policy - P.G. Cert.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work or Social Policy - 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 2009 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of the following qualifications:

(1) For the degree of Master of Arts in Social Work:

(a) a Bachelor degree in Social Work with at least Second Class Honours or equivalent and a minimum of two years of social work practice; or

(b) the Diploma in Social Work or the Diploma in Applied Social Studies (Social Work) from this University and a minimum of five years of social work practice, provided that such applicants shall have successfully sat for an interview, during which they shall be required to provide written and employer-corroborated evidence of social work practice and other relevant qualifications obtained following completion of the diploma course; and provided that they shall have successfully completed a preparatory programme as specified in bye-law 6.

(2) For the degree of Master of Arts in Social Policy:

(a) a Bachelor degree with at least Second Class Honours in Social Policy or in any other area of study which the Board deems to be relevant; and

(b) a minimum of two years of practice in an area deemed relevant by the Board.

For courses commencing in October 2014 or later:

(2) For the degree of Master of Arts in Social Policy: a Bachelor degree with at least Second Class Honours in Social Policy or in any other area of study which the Board deems to be relevant.

4. The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

5. If there are more eligible applicants than the number of places available, applicants shall be selected after an interview by a board appointed for the purpose composed of at least three members. The board shall select applicants using the following criteria:

- (a) degree type and class - 30%;
- (b) experience in the area of the proposed study - 35%; and
- (c) performance during an interview - 35%.

Preparatory Programme

6. (1) Applicants admitted under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 3 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme, comprising 45 credits as directed by the Board, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course. Only those applicants who obtain an average of 65% or better in the preparatory programme shall be considered for admission under paragraph (b) of bye-law 3.

(2) Preparatory programmes shall also be governed by the Principal Regulations.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

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

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:

9. Students who obtain a total of 30 ECTS credits for 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 in the respective area of study.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:

10. (1) Students who successfully complete the 60 ECTS credits assigned to taught study-units with an average mark of at least 60% shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit.

(2) 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 the Postgraduate Diploma in the respective area of study.

11. 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

12. (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 in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits for taught study-units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 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 the credits for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

13. (1) 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 of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

14. (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

15. 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 components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

16. 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.