

Legal Notice 324 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No.19,482 – 6 October 2015  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 377 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No.19,674 – 7 November 2016

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the  
Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
under the auspices of the Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics**

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 Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 6 (b)(v) of the Statute for the Centre, which bye-laws have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta:

**Citation and Interpretation**

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics;

"the Degree" means the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.;

"the Principal Regulations" means the Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008.

**Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from October 2015 onwards.

**Requirements for Admission**

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

(a) a Master's degree, normally of this or another University, in an area of study relevant to that applied for, obtained subsequent to the completion of a first cycle qualification; or

(b) the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery; or

(c) the degree of Master of Dental Surgery; or

(d) a qualification deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to be equivalent or higher to the qualifications listed in paragraphs (a) to (c) above.

**Applicable as from 1 October 2016 onwards:**

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

(a) a Bachelor degree in an area of study relevant to that applied for, obtained at First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Upper Division); or

(b) a Master's degree in an area of study relevant to that applied for, obtained subsequent to the completion of a first cycle degree; or

(c) the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery; or

(d) the Master of Dental Surgery degree; or

(e) a qualification deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to be equivalent or higher to the qualifications listed in (a) to (d) above.

4. When the Board deems it necessary, it may require students to successfully complete a number of study-units during their studies, and/or to satisfactorily undertake tasks recommended by the Board, under those conditions that it may impose, after approval by Senate.

5. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a comprehensive research proposal outlining the proposed project, including research sources and materials, at any time of the year.

(2) Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate competence in those skills required by the nature of the proposed research.

**Centres Doctoral Committee**

6. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Centre Doctoral Committee, composed as follows:

The Director of the Centre, or delegate, and  
3 members of the Academic Staff

The Centre Doctoral Committee may co-opt other members from other Faculties/Centres, possessing academic doctoral qualifications, if deemed necessary.

### **Supervision and Students' Progress**

7. Principal Supervisors shall be required to submit a written report to the Board, through the Centres Doctoral Committee, every June for all students under their supervision.

8. Students shall only be allowed to proceed with their studies subject to satisfactory progress reports from their Principal Supervisor. If the report is negative, the Board shall make recommendations to Senate on the student's continuing registration for the Degree.

9. (1) After 12 months and not later than 24 months of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study, students are required to submit a report on their research work for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The *ad hoc* board shall be appointed by the Board on the advice of the Centre's Doctoral Committee and shall be composed of a chairman, the Principal Supervisor and an academic with expertise in the area.

(2) The *ad hoc* board shall examine the student orally and shall submit a written report for consideration by the Centres Doctoral Committee in the first instance. The report shall contain recommendations according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

10. Students registered at the Centre may be required to participate in the Centre's research and teaching programmes.

### **Thesis Presentation and Format**

11. Six months before the submission deadline students shall be informed that they are required to inform the Centre that they will be submitting their thesis for examination not less than three months before the submission deadline.

12. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of the Board of Examiners in accordance with the Principal Regulations.

13. The Board shall approve and publish guidelines on the format and presentation of the thesis for the Degree.

14. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their thesis for each member of the Board of Examiners, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Faculty shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) Students may publish the whole or part of their thesis before submitting it for examination. Such published work may later be included in the thesis submitted for examination, provided that a statement to this effect is included.

(3) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Centre two hard bound copies and one electronic version of the thesis, which shall include a signed declaration of authenticity, within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the thesis shall be kept in the Library of the Centre. The electronic version must conform to the standards set up by the University of Malta Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree.