

Legal Notice 210 - Malta Government Gazette No.18,577 – 9th April, 2010
Amended by:
Legal Notice 319 - Malta Government Gazette No.19,305 – 4th September, 2014

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree
Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of
the Faculty of Health Sciences**

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 of Health Sciences in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) (c) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by article 81 (2) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences;

“the Degree” means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D.;

“the Faculty” means the Faculty of Health Sciences; and

“the Principal Regulations” means the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from October 2009 onwards.

Requirements for Admissions

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees:

(a) a Master's degree in the same area of study or in a related area obtained subsequent to the completion of a first cycle degree or a comparable qualification;

(b) a first degree in a related subject obtained with at least Second Class Honours (Upper Division); or

(c) a degree qualification comparable to the degrees specified in subparagraphs (a) and (b), as approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) In the case of applicants presenting a degree indicated in subparagraphs (b) and (c), the Faculty Doctoral Committee shall:

(a) ascertain that the applicant has a very strong background in the area of study related to the proposed area of research; and

(b) submit a clearly motivated recommendation for acceptance to the Board for eventual consideration by the Ph.D. Committee and Senate.

4. Applicants in possession of the degrees indicated in bye-law 3 (b) and (c) shall have successfully completed a substantial dissertation/research component, with at least an average grade of B+ or its equivalent, to which not less than 14 ECTS credits are assigned.

5. Where the Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, deems it necessary, it may require applicants to successfully complete a number of study-units under those conditions it may impose.

6. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a comprehensive research proposal of not more than 3000 words excluding references, 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 as directed by the Institute Doctoral Committee.

Faculty Doctoral Committee

7. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Faculty Doctoral Committee composed as follows:

The Dean of the Faculty or delegate (Chairperson)

3 - 4 members of the Faculty possessing academic doctoral qualifications.

Supervision and Students' Progress

8. Principal Supervisors shall be required to submit a written report to the Board, through the Faculty Doctoral Committee, annually for all students under their supervision.

9. 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.

10. (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 Faculty 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 Faculty Doctoral Committee in the first instance. The report shall contain recommendations according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

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

Procedure during Oral Examination

12. Students shall be required to defend their thesis orally. They are expected to make a presentation of the major findings of their research work of about 20 to 30 minutes and then to answer questions posed by members of the Board of Examiners. The Chairman of the Board of Examiners shall ensure that the student is aware of the procedure to be followed during the oral examination.

Thesis Presentation and Format

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

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

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

16. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their thesis for each member of the Board of Examiners, according to the format indicated in the

published guidelines, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Faculty shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Faculty three hard bound copies of the thesis and one copy in digital format within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the thesis shall be kept in the Library of the department and another at the University Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree.

Repeal

17. The Bye-Laws for the Degrees of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - and Master of Philosophy - M.Phil. - in the Institute of Health Care, 2007, published as Legal Notice 81 of 2007, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 1st October 2009, provided that students registered for the Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy degrees before the 1st October 2009 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their registering for the degree.