

Legal Notice 29 of 2012 - Malta Government Gazette No.18,859 – 24 January 2012  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 374 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,163 – 8 November 2013  
as approved by Senate of 22 March 2018

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for  
University Postgraduate Awards, 2008  
for the Degree of Master of Arts – M.A. -  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor the University of Malta has promulgated the following bye-laws made by the Board of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) 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 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts – M.A. - offered under the auspices of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts – M.A.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts – M.A.;

“the Faculty” means the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences;

“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 2011 or later.

## **Areas of Study**

3. The Board shall offer the Course in areas of study which fall under the competence of the Faculty. It shall announce the areas of study and the mode of study in which they are offered before the beginning of each Course, after the approval of Senate. Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of area and mode of study at the time of application.

## **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) a Bachelor's degree with Honours obtained with Second Class or better in the same area or in a closely related area of study as the area of study applied for; or

(b) the degree of Bachelor in the same area or in a closely related area of study as that applied for, with an average mark of not less than 65% in that area of study, or similar qualifications deemed by the Board relevant to that chosen for the Course; or

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

(2) The Board may also consider applicants in possession of degrees or qualifications other than those referred to in paragraph (1) of this bye-law if they also present a portfolio of work confirmed to have been carried out by them and which is related to the area of study applied for to the satisfaction of the Board.

## **Preparatory Programme**

5. (1) Applicants applying in terms of sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph (1) and in terms of paragraph (2) of bye-law 4 may be required to follow a preparatory programme as specified by the Board, which extends over one year of full-time study. The preparatory programme shall include synoptic study-units in the area of study concerned, and may include also study-units which are intended to train students in the competencies required to conduct research work.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

5. (1) Applicants applying in terms of sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph (1) and in terms of paragraph (2) of bye-law 4 may be required to follow a preparatory programme as specified by the Board, which extends over one year of full-time study. The preparatory programme shall include study-units in the area of study concerned, and may include also study-units which are intended to train students in the competencies required to conduct research work.

(2) During the preparatory programme students shall be required to register for a number of study-units for which a total of not less than thirty and not more than sixty credits are assigned.

(3) Students shall be required to successfully complete the preparatory programme of study with an average mark of 55% or better prior to their registration for the Course.

**Admission to the Course**

6. Applicants wishing to apply for the Degree mainly by research, shall indicate the provisional title for the dissertation on their application for admission. The application shall include a research proposal as well as a statement by the head of department concerned that applicants possess the training, knowledge and capabilities required for the proposed line of study and research.

**Course duration**

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

**Programme of Study**

8. The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research. The Board shall indicate which areas of study may be taken by research only and which by taught and research study-units before the commencement of each Course. It shall also indicate the areas of study offered in the full-time and part-time courses.

9. (1) 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.

(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 a Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study.

10. 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.

11. 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**

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 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 on a full-time basis, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course on a part-time basis, 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.

### **Dissertations**

13. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students shall be required to submit a dissertation of up to a maximum of 25,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken primarily during the third semester of the Course. Students shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) Students following the mainly taught programme must submit a provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal to the Board for approval not later than six weeks before the end of the second semester.

### **Research Programmes of Study**

14. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to submit a dissertation of up to a maximum of 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course after approval of the proposal. Students 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 re-submitted to the Board for approval after completing the compulsory study-units.

### **Supervision of Dissertations**

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

(2) For students following the mainly taught programme, supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student under their supervision as applicable.

(3) For students following the programme by research, supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports about 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.

(4) The reports required in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this bye-law 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 Awards**

16. 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**

17. 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**

18. The Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts – under the auspices of the Centre for Communication Technology, published as Legal Notice 402 of 2010, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2011, provided that students registered for this course before 1 October 2011 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the Course.