

Legal Notice 38 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette 19,204 – 31 January 2014  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 174 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette 19,798 – 8 June 2017

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2014 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 School of Performing Arts**

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 School of Performing Arts in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 7 (b) (v) of the Statute for the School and which 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 2014 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 School of Performing Arts.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the School of Performing Arts;

“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 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 2013 or later.

## **Areas of Study**

3. (1) The Course shall be offered in areas of study that fall within the academic responsibility of the Board and shall be announced together with the mode of study before the beginning of each Course and after approval by Senate.

(2) Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of area and mode of study at the time of application.

(3) The Course may be offered either on a mainly taught or mainly research basis in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Regulations. 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 full-time and part-time courses.

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

(b) a Bachelor's degree 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

(c) a degree from this or another university, which the Board considers as comparable to any of the degrees indicated in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law; or

(d) a professional qualification/qualifications and/or experience deemed by the Board, to satisfy in part, the admission requirements for a taught postgraduate course, provided that applicants may be required to complete a preparatory programme as specified in bye-law 6.

### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:**

(2) All applicants who are not in possession of a first degree in Dance shall be interviewed and/or auditioned by a board composed of at least three members. Applicants shall be asked to provide evidence of their professional experience in dance by way of writing sample, performance documentation and

video. Candidates unable to attend the interview and dance audition in person may arrange to complete the process through electronic means of communication.

5. 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.

### **Preparatory Programme**

6. (1) Applicants applying in terms of sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of bye-law 4 may be required to follow a preparatory programme as specified by the Board. 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 30 ECTS credits and not more than 60 ECTS 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.

### **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. (1) (a) Mainly taught programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 ECTS credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 ECTS credits are assigned.

(b) 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 a Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study.

(2) Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which 10 ECTS credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 80 ECTS credits are assigned.

9. 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**

10. (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 ECTS credits, if following the Course on a full-time basis, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the Course on a part-time basis, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed study-units 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.

(4) Students following the mainly research programme of study who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 10 credits, if following the Course on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed study-units during the September supplementary examination session.

### **Dissertations in mainly Taught Programmes**

11. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students shall be required to submit a dissertation of approximately 20,000 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**

12. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to:

(a) submit a dissertation of up to a maximum of 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board; or

(b) submit a presentation of artistic practice supported by a dissertation of a maximum of 30,000 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**

13. (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**

14. 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**

15. 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.