

Legal Notice 74 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,392 – 20 March 2009  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 226 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,114 – 26 July 2013

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for  
University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master  
of Science in Engineering under the auspices of the Faculty of  
Engineering**

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 Board of the Faculty of Engineering in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 81 (1) 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 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Science in Engineering under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Engineering;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Engineering;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science in Engineering;

"Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Engineering; 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 2008 or later.

**Areas of Study**

3. The Course may be offered in any area of study that falls within the academic responsibility of the Board, after approval by Senate.

## **Requirements for Admission**

4. (1) the Course shall be open to applicants in possession of the following qualifications:

(a) a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree with at least Second Class Honours; or

(b) a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree with at least Second Class Honours in appropriate subjects as approved by the Board; or

(c) a Bachelor's degree with a Third Class Honours in Engineering or in a relevant area of study and are in possession of other qualifications, including relevant experience following their first cycle degree; or

(d) equivalent qualifications approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board .

(2) Admission of applicants under sub-paragraph (1)(c) and (d) of this bye-law shall be made conditional on the results of an interview and in such cases the Board may require applicants to successfully complete a preparatory programme of up to 30 credits prior to their registration to the Course.

## **Course Duration**

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

## **Programme of Study**

6. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned.

7. The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research.

8. 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.

9. Students who obtain 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.

10. Students shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit subject to obtaining the 60 credits assigned to the taught study-units with a minimum average mark of 50%.

11. Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise study-units to which 90 credits are assigned, of which 10 to 30 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 60 to 80 credits are assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

12. (1) The Board shall publish the areas of study which can offer expert guidance and supervision before the commencement of the Course .

(2) The programmes 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**

13. (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 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 assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail 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.

### **Dissertations**

14. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of between 15,000 and 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

#### **For courses commencing in October 2012 or later:**

14. (1) In mainly taught programmes of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of a maximum of 20,000 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 for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

15. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of between 35,000 and 40,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

**For courses commencing in October 2012 or later:**

15. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of a maximum of 40,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken throughout the Course after approval of the proposal. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

16. (1) In all cases, students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor. Supervisors who shall submit to the Board progress reports for 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. Such reports may include recommendations 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**

17. 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 the components of the study programme, all components being weighted equally.

**Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses**

18. (1) The Board may, from time to time, offer students the opportunity to follow the Course on a part-time basis in areas of study which shall be indicated before the commencement of each Course.

(2) 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 relevant Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

**Repeal**

19. The Regulations of 1999 for the Degree of Master of Science in Engineering published as Legal Notice 106 of 1999, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2008, provided that students registered for this Course before 1 October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the Course.