

Legal Notice 11 of 2005 – Malta Government Gazette No. 17,712 – 25 January 2005  
 Amended by:  
 Legal Notice 112 of 2008 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,222 – 4 April 2008  
 Legal Notice 290 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,498 – 23 October 2009  
 Legal Notice 384 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,629 – 6 August 2010  
 Legal Notice 38 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,023 – 29 January 2013  
 Legal Notice 324 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,154 – 18 October 2013  
 Legal Notice 211 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,272 – 27 June 2014  
 Legal Notice 40 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,377 – 3 February 2015  
 Legal Notice 95 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,395 – 20 March 2015  
 Legal Notice 336 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,487 – 20 October 2015  
 Legal Notice 152 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,570 – 9 May 2016  
 Legal Notice 196 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,581 – 26 May 2016  
 Legal Notice 168 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,798 – 8 June 2017  
 Legal Notice 145 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,223 – 2 July 2019  
 Legal Notice 306 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,448 – 28 July 2020  
 Legal Notice 159 of 2021 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,607 – 13 April 2021  
 Legal Notice 288 of 2021 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,663 – 13 July 2021  
 Legal Notice 172 of 2022 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,878 – 17 June 2022  
 Legal Notice 322 of 2022 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,878 – 6 December 2022  
 Legal Notice 125 of 2023 – Malta Government Gazette No. 21,074 – 23 June 2023

## **EDUCATION ACT (CAP. 327)**

### **Bye-Laws of 2005 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts - B.A - and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - B.A. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts**

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30(5) and 31(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 Arts in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 37 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by section 37 (2) of the said Act:

#### **Citation and Interpretation**

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2005 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts - B.A. - and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - B.A. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Arts;

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies appointed by Senate for the Course, on the recommendation of the Board;

“the Course” means the course programme leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts - B.A. - or to the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - B.A. (Hons) - as appropriate;

“the Degree” means the degree of Bachelor of Arts - B.A. - or the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - B.A. (Hons) - as appropriate; and

“the Principal Regulations” means the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2019.”

### **Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2003 or later.

### **Areas of Study**

3. (1) The degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) may be awarded in any one of the following areas of study:

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:**

3. (1) The degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) may be awarded in any one of the following areas of study:

Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, Contemporary Mediterranean Studies, Dance Studies, English, European and Global History, Fine Arts, French, Geography, German, History, History of Art, International Relations, Italian, Linguistics, Maltese, Music Studies, Oriental Studies (Arabic), Oriental Studies (Chinese), Oriental Studies (Hebrew), Oriental Studies (Near Eastern Studies), Philosophy, Social Studies, Sociology, Spanish and Latin American Studies, Theatre Studies and any other area of study recommended by the Board and approved by Senate.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:**

3. (1) The degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) may be awarded in any one of the following areas of study: Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, Contemporary Mediterranean Studies, Dance Studies, English, European and Global History, Fine Arts, French, Geography, German, History, History of Art, International Relations, Italian, Linguistics, Maltese, Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures (Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew or Near Eastern Studies), Music Studies, Philosophy, Social Studies, Sociology, Spanish and Latin American

Studies, Theatre Studies and any other area of study recommended by the Board and approved by Senate.
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(2) The degree of Bachelor of Arts may be awarded in any two areas of study from those listed in paragraph (1) of this bye-law and/or from:

American Studies, Communication Studies, Comparative Religion, Economics, Greek, Knowledge and Information Management, Language Technology, Latin, Mediterranean Studies, Psychology and any other area of study recommended by the Board and approved by Senate.

4. The areas of study offered in any particular year and the combinations that may and may not be chosen together shall be published by the Board before the commencement of each Course.

### **Special Course Requirements for Admission**

5. (1) To be registered as regular students in the Course, applicants shall, apart from satisfying the general requirements for admission as specified in the Admission Regulations, be in possession of the following special course requirements:

(a) for **Economics, English, French, German, Italian, Maltese**, a pass at Grade C or better at Advanced Matriculation Level, or equivalent, in the subject;

<b>Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:</b>
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(a) for <b>Economics, English, French, German, Maltese</b> , a pass at Grade C or better at Advanced Matriculation Level, or equivalent, in the subject;
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(b) for **International Relations**, either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Grade C or better at Advanced Matriculation Level, or equivalent, in either History or Economics or Arabic or French or German or Russian or Spanish or a pass in Chinese obtained in the Chinese University/College Entrance Examination (Gaokao);

(c) for **Sociology** either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Advanced Matriculation level, or equivalent, in any of the following subjects: Sociology, Philosophy, Geography, Economics, History, Home Economics & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Marketing, Religious Knowledge, Theatre & Performance.

(d) for **Spanish and Latin American Studies** either as a Main Area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Grade C or better at Advanced Matriculation Level, or equivalent, in Spanish.

(e) for **Communication Studies** either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Intermediate Matriculation Level in English Language, or its equivalent.

(f) for **History**, and **European and Global History** either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Advanced Matriculation Level, or equivalent, in History.

(g) for **Fine Arts**, applicants are required to submit a portfolio which shall be assessed during an interview held by an interviewing board, which shall be composed of at least three members. Applicants who are unsuccessful in the interview shall not be admitted to the Course.

(h) for **Music Studies** either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, undertake an interview and an audition; applicants with a pass at Grade C or better at Intermediate Matriculation Level or higher in Music shall be exempt from both the interview and the audition.

(i) for **Dance Studies**, applicants are required to complete an interview and an audition. Applicants are also required to submit a completed medical fitness form. Those applicants who are unable to attend the interview and dance audition in person may arrange to complete the process through electronic means of communication.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:**

(j) for **Italian**, either as a Main area of study or as a Subsidiary area of study, a pass at Grade C or better at Advanced or Intermediate Matriculation Level, in Italian.

(2) For the area of **Fine Arts**, the Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(3) If the number of applicants for the area of **Fine Arts**, exceeds the number of available places, applicants shall be rank ordered in accordance with the criteria approved by Senate. The University Admissions Board, after seeking the advice of the Faculty Admissions Committee, shall first consider eligible applicants whose qualifications were obtained in the Matriculation Certificate Examination or from another recognised examining board, if the Faculty Admissions Committee is satisfied that the qualifications presented are comparable in content and equivalent in standard to the Matriculation Certificate Examination in the same subject/s. For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course and pass the interview as stipulated in sub-paragraph (h) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law, shall be considered first. If vacant places are still available, applicants who satisfy all entry requirements

after the 31 August and before the 30 September shall be considered to take up the remaining places.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:**

(4) In accordance with the provisions of regulation 15(1) of the Admissions Regulations, the Admissions Board, acting on the advice of the Board, may admit applicants in possession of a Diploma of this University into the second year of the Course for the Honours degree; provided that the Diploma falls within one of the areas of study specified in paragraph (1) of bye-law 3, and provided also that the average mark for study-units covered in the Diploma is not less than 65%. Such students may be required to follow a programme of study as directed by the Board of Studies.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:**

(4) In accordance with the provisions of regulation 16 (1) of the Admissions Regulations, the Admissions Board, acting on the advice of the Board, may admit applicants in possession of a Diploma of this University into the second year of the Course for the Honours degree; provided that the Diploma falls within one of the areas of study specified in paragraph (1) of bye-law 3, and provided also that the average mark for study-units covered in the Diploma is not less than 65%. Such students may be required to follow a specific programme of study or additional study-units as directed by the Board of Studies.

**Course Duration**

6. The Course shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study or five years of part-time study when the Course is offered on a part-time basis.

**Applicable as from 1 October 2022 onwards:**

6. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study.

(2) Students may also follow the Course on a part-time basis, over a period of up to six years. Changes in mode of attendance from full-time to part-time and *vice versa* may be allowed at the beginning of the second year of the regular programme of studies. Further changes in mode of attendance may be considered by the respective department, if the course programme permits.

**Course Programme**

7. Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of areas of study at the time of applying for admission.

8. (1) At the end of the first year of the Course, students shall be required to choose between the B.A. (Hons) and the B.A. degrees. Students shall be allowed to proceed to the B.A. (Hons) degree (except in the areas of study listed under paragraph (2) of bye-law 3) if at the end of the first year of study they obtain a minimum average mark of 65% in the chosen area of study.

(2) Students who obtain the 65% minimum average mark in the area of study chosen for the Honours Course but lack up to 10 credits for any compulsory study-units in this area of study may be allowed to proceed conditionally to Year II of the B.A. (Hons) Course, provided that they successfully complete the failed compulsory unit/s during the following year.

**Applicable as from 1 February 2021 onwards:**

(2) Students who obtain the 65% minimum average mark in the area of study chosen for the Honours Course but lack up to 12 credits for any compulsory study-units in this area of study may be allowed to proceed conditionally to Year II of the B.A. (Hons) Course, provided that they successfully complete the failed compulsory unit/s during the following year.

(3) Students who wish to proceed to the B.A. (Hons) course in a successfully completed area of study, but do not possess the necessary average mark of 65% in that area of study (as required by paragraph (1) of this bye-law) may be allowed by the Board to follow the first year programme (without exemptions) in that area in an additional year of study in order to try and obtain the required average mark. This provision may be availed of once only during the Course.

9. The Board shall publish the Course Programme for the Degree and the Programme of Study for each area, as Main Honours, Main and/or as Subsidiary as applicable, at the commencement of each Course. Subject to changes that the Board may, with the approval of Senate, be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the Course Programme and in the Programmes of Study of the areas of study they are following for the Degree,

Provided that Course Programmes and Programmes of Study are drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Principal Regulations.

10. (1) The third year of the programmes of study of all areas of study for B.A. (Hons) students shall include either (a) synoptic study-units assigned a total of 12 credits and a dissertation assigned 12 credits, or (b) synoptic study-units to which a total of 24 credits are assigned.

(2) The third year of the programmes of study of all areas of study for B.A. students shall include synoptic study-units to which a total of 12 credits are assigned.

(3) Synoptic study-units shall be assessed by means of a Final Examination only and the dissertation shall be assessed by a *viva voce* examination.

**Applicable as from 1 October 2022 onwards:**

10. (1) The final year of the programmes of study of all areas of study for B.A. (Hons) students shall include two synoptic study-units assigned a total of 12 credits and a dissertation assigned 12 credits.

(2) The final year of the programmes of study of each area of study for B.A. students shall include synoptic study-units to which a total of 12 credits are assigned.

(3) Synoptic study-units shall be assessed by means of a Final Examination only, to be taken at the end of the last semester of the Course, and the dissertation shall be assessed by a *viva voce* examination.

11. (1) Students in the B.A.(Hons) course shall be required to register and obtain credits for study-units to which a total of not less than 180 credits are assigned, of which not less than 132 credits shall be in the area taken for Honours and not less than 36 credits shall be in the Subsidiary area.

**Applicable as from 1 October 2022 onwards:**

11. (1) Students in the B.A.(Hons) course shall be required to register and obtain credits for study-units to which a total of not less than 180 credits are assigned, of which not less than 132 credits shall be in the area taken for Honours and not less than 36 credits shall be in the Subsidiary area;

provided that for students admitted in terms of paragraph (4) of bye-law 5, the study-units for the Subsidiary area shall be taken from the various areas of study on offer, which shall be collectively termed as “Humanities”.

(2) Students in the B.A. course shall be required to register and obtain credits for study-units to which a total of not less than 180 credits are assigned, of which not less than 80 credits shall be obtained in each of the two Main areas of study.

**Classification of the Awards**

12. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the classification of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in the three years of the Course, which shall be weighted as follows:

First Year Average Mark	10%
Second Year Average Mark	25%
Third Year Average Mark of the synoptic and/or dissertation study-units	40%
Third Year Average Mark of the other 36 credits	25%.

**Applicable as from 1 October 2022 onwards:**

**Special Provision for Part-Time Courses**

13. 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.