

Legal Notice 30 of 2018 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,941 – 30 January 2018  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 132 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,382 – 3 April 2020  
Legal Notice 348 of 2021 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,696 – 7 September 2021  
Legal Notice 212 of 2024 – Malta Government Gazette No. 21,312 – 11 September 2024

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action - M.A. -  
Degree Course Regulations, 2017  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts**

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 regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) (c) of the said Act:

**Citation and Interpretation**

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action - M.A. - Degree Course Regulations, 2017.

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

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

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies responsible for the academic administration and organization of the Course, which shall include a member from each Partner Institution;

“the Course” means the programme of study developed by the Partner Institutions leading to the degree of Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action - M.A.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action - M.A.;

“the Partner Institutions” means the institutions taking part in the Joint Master’s degree programme in International Humanitarian Action which is approved by the Network On Humanitarian Action (NOHA) Board of Directors, namely:

Aix-Marseille Université,  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum,  
Universidad de Deusto,

University College Dublin,  
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen,  
University of Malta,  
Uppsala Universitet,  
Uniwersytet Warszawski;

“the Senate” means the Senate of the University of Malta; and

“the University” means the University of Malta.

(3) This Degree is a Joint Degree of the University and this shall be taken to mean that the Course is taught at the Partner Institutions within the framework of a joint degree programme. The Degree shall only be awarded if the Partner Institutions declare the student to be eligible for the award.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) of this regulation, the University shall make provision for the award of a double or dual degree, as applicable, in those instances when students who follow part of their studies at the University, undertake studies at any of the other partner institutions which are legally precluded from issuing joint degree awards.

### **Applicability**

2. These regulations shall be applicable to courses commencing in September 2017 or later.

### **Qualifications for Admission**

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants who are in possession of a first cycle degree (Bachelor, EQF Level 6) from this or another university recognized by Senate, with at least Second Class Honours or Category II or an equivalent classification, in a discipline of relevance to Humanitarian Action, the duration of which should be of a minimum of three years and it should comprise not less than 180 ECTS credits.

(2) (i) Applicants are required to demonstrate that their standard of language of instruction of the Universities they plan to attend are satisfactory. The offer of a place on the Course may be made subject to the applicants obtaining such proficiency qualifications prior to the commencement of their studies.

(ii) Proficiency in English may be certified by one of the following:

- (a) TOEFL: score of at least 250 (computer-based test) or 93 with a writing score of at least 24 (internet-based test);
- (b) Cambridge Proficiency Examination Advanced Certificate: pass at Grade C or better; or
- (c) IELTS: at least 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each element;

provided that English native speakers and students who have attended a Bachelor's course taught in English shall not be required to submit the above certificates but may be required to demonstrate proficiency in some other way.

(iii) Proficiency in French may be certified by a C1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);

(iv) Proficiency in Spanish may be certified by a B2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

(3) Depending on the availability of resources, Senate, on the recommendation of the Board of Studies, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register on the Course. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(4) If there are more eligible applicants than there are available places, applications shall be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- (a) type and level of academic qualifications (25%);
- (b) type and level of research experience (10%);
- (c) type and level of professional experience, such as practical experience in the area of humanitarian action in governmental, inter-governmental and/or non-governmental organisations and institutions (25%);
- (d) motivation and concern for humanitarian issues (10%);
- (e) multicultural sensitivity (10%);
- (f) level of linguistic abilities (10%),
- (g) recommendations (5%);
- (h) nationality and gender balance (5%).

(5) Applicants may further be requested to sit for an interview which shall be conducted by an interviewing board composed of at least three members, appointed for the purpose.

(6) The interviewing board may make use of electronic means of communication in order to carry out interviews with applicants.

## **Application and Registration**

4. (1) All applications must be made on-line via the NOHA Consortium website ([nohanet.org](http://nohanet.org)) in accordance with the published instructions and before the deadlines stated on the website.

(2) On application, applicants must indicate at which of the Partner Universities they wish to undertake studies, besides this University.

## **Course Duration**

5. (1) The Course shall extend over two years of full-time study.

(2) The Board of Studies may allow students to extend their studies by not more than six months, provided that in special circumstances, Senate, on the recommendation of the Board of Studies, may grant students a further extension of up to two years in order to enable them to complete their studies.

(3) If students following the Course supported by a scholarship require an extension, the scholarship shall not be extended. Such extensions may be given in terms of the applicable regulations at the Partner University involved.

## **Programme of Study**

6. (1) The programme of study shall consist of study-units to which a total of 120 ECTS credits shall be assigned, and shall comprise 60 ECTS credits for taught study-units, 30 ECTS credits for a Work Placement or Regional Training, and 30 ECTS credits for a dissertation. The Board shall publish the programme prior to the commencement of the Course, following the approval of Senate.

(2) All students shall be required to spend a compulsory study period in at least two of the Partner Institutions, as indicated in the programme of study.

## **Catalogue of Study-Units**

7. The Board of Studies shall draw up a catalogue of all study-units. The catalogue shall indicate the level, code, title, description and type of each study-unit, the ECTS credits assigned to each study-unit, the methods of teaching and assessment, as well as the re-assessment opportunities for each study-unit

## **Assessment and Progress**

8. (1) The assessment of each study-unit shall be held on completion of the study-unit, during the period of attendance at one of the Partner Institutions at a time to be specified by the Board of Studies.

(2) Results for the assessment of the study-units and the dissertation undertaken at the University shall be published as a percentage mark and grade as indicated in below:

<b>Mark Range</b>	<b>Grade</b>
80% - 100%	A
70% - 79%	B
55% - 69%	C
50% - 54%	D

45% - 49%	E
0% - 44%	F

provided the minimum pass mark for the dissertation shall be 50%.

(3) Students who fail in any of the taught study-units shall be allowed one re-assessment. The re-assessment shall be held at the next scheduled examination session (May or September) as the case may be, provided that when it is not possible or practicable for a study-unit to be re-assessed during the same academic year, students shall be required to refer the failed study-unit to the following year. The conditions for the re-assessment of such study-units shall be indicated in the particular study-unit description. The maximum mark/grade that can be awarded after re-assessment of taught study-units shall be 45%/Grade E.

(4) Students who fail in the dissertation shall be allowed a re-examination in terms of regulation 12. The maximum mark/grade that can be awarded after re-examination shall be 50%/Grade D.

(5) Progression from one semester to the next shall be as specified in the Study and Examination Regulations published on the NOHA website (nohanet.org).

(6) Students who do not complete or fail in the assessment of the Regional Training or Work Placement shall not have the right to re-assessment and shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

(7) Senate shall appoint a Board of Examiners for each study-unit undertaken at the University, in accordance with the provisions of the University Assessment Regulations.

## **Dissertation**

9. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 30,000 words, excluding references and appendices, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) Dissertations shall normally be written in English. However, the Board of Studies may allow students to write their dissertation in any other language provided that the Board of Studies has ascertained to the satisfaction of Senate, that the Partner Institutions have the necessary expertise to supervise and examine the work. In such cases, students shall be required to include a translation of the abstract in English.

(3) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the fourth semester of the Course. Students shall submit for approval a title and a detailed research proposal by the deadline and in the format specified in the NOHA Master Thesis Guide and other relevant documents as drawn up by the Board of Studies.

(4) Students shall seek approval from the Board of Studies for any substantial modification in the title or content of the dissertation.

(5) Dissertations shall include a declaration signed by the students that it is their own original work.

(6) Before graduating, students shall present one hard bound copy of the dissertation to the Board of Studies, and an electronic version to each of the Partner Institutions, which shall include a signed declaration of authenticity. The electronic version must conform to the standards set by each of the Partner Institutions.

10. (1) The Board of Studies shall appoint a supervisor for each student. Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies progress reports for each student under their supervision at the end of each semester of study. Such reports 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 regulation 5 of these regulations; and

(ii) the Board of Studies may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

(3) The role of the supervisor shall cease when the dissertation is submitted for examination but may be re-assumed, on the advice of the Board of Examiners, in order to provide guidance to students whose dissertation is referred back for significant correction pending final acceptance.

11. (1) Each dissertation shall be examined by a Board of Examiners, composed of at least three members, one of whom shall normally be a local examiner from one of the Partner Institutions. The Board of Examiners may additionally also include an external examiner appointed from an institution external to the Partner Institutions.

(2) Students may be required to take a *viva voce* examination to defend their dissertation and this may also be conducted using electronic means of communication if so approved by the Board of Studies.

12. Students whose dissertation is found unsatisfactory may be allowed by the Board of Studies, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, to re-submit it in a revised form, within a period of up to six months from the day on which it is referred back to them.

### **Award of the Degree**

13. (1) Students who obtain the 120 ECTS credits shall be eligible for the award of the Degree.

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order.

#### **Applicable as from 1 October 2024 onwards:**

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order; provided that students who qualify for a Degree from this University in terms of paragraph (4) of regulation 1 of the principal regulations shall be classified as follows:

Pass with Distinction  
Pass with Merit  
Pass.

(3) The Degree shall be awarded jointly by the University and any of the Partner Institutions at which the student has completed at least 30 ECTS credits.