

**EDUCATION ACT  
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2024 in terms of the  
Professional Doctorate Degree Course Regulations, 2014  
for the Degree of Doctorate in Educational Leadership – Ed.D. –  
under the auspices of the Faculty of Education**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by article 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 Education in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81(1)(c) 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 2024 in terms of the Professional Doctorate Degree Course Regulations, 2014 for the Degree of Doctorate in Educational Leadership – Ed.D. – under the auspices of the Faculty of Education.

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

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

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

“the Degree” means the degree of Doctorate in Educational Leadership – Ed.D.;

“the Faculty” means the Faculty of Education;

“the Master’s Degree” means the degree of the Master in Educational Leadership;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership; and

“the Principal Regulations” means the Professional Doctorate Degree Course Regulations, 2014.

**Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses starting in September 2024 or later.

## **Requirements for Admission**

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, Management, or any other relevant qualification deemed comparable by the Board.

(2) Applicants must possess a minimum of 8 years of successful experience in teaching, leadership or equivalent experience in educational practice.

(3) Applicants must present the following:

(a) two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicants' leadership potential, relevant experience, and ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate programme;

(b) a professional written statement describing one's educational and professional goals and discussing what one hopes to gain from such a programme; and

(c) a Curriculum Vitae / Résumé.

(4) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register on the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(5) If there are more eligible applicants than the number of places available, applicants shall be selected according to the following criteria:

(a) qualifications as identified in paragraph (1) of this bye-law: 20%;

(b) professional development portfolio: 30%;

(c) professional written statement: 20%; and

(d) performance during an interview: 30%.

(6) The interviewing board appointed by the Board shall be composed of at least three members.

(7) Applicants shall be registered on the Master's Degree in the first instance.

## **Course Duration**

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

## **Programme of Study**

5. The programme of study for the Degree shall comprise:

(a) a taught and professional practice component, including a reflective portfolio, comprising study-units to which 120 ECTS credits shall be assigned; and

(b) a research component, comprising a dissertation study-unit to which 60 ECTS credits shall be assigned.

6. In order to remain registered on the Degree, students must maintain an average mark of 60% in the taught study-units, which average mark shall be computed at the end of the academic year.

7. Students who obtain at least 60 ECTS credits for taught and practice study-units and either opt not to proceed with the Course, or having proceeded, do not complete the full programme of study, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma. Students who opt not to proceed with the Course after completion of the study-units to which 120 ECTS credits are assigned, shall be eligible for the award of the Master's Degree.

8. The programme of study shall be published after approval by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

### **Assessment and Progress**

9. (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 who, in the first and second year of the programme, 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 resit the failed study-units once 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 required to withdraw from the Course.

### **Professional Practice**

10. (1) The Board, upon the recommendation of the Board of Studies, shall appoint a professional practice supervisor, who shall be a resident academic, for each student. professional practice supervisors shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the students' professional practice.

(2) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their professional practice supervisors.

11. Professional practice supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies reports for students under their supervision, by the end of June of each academic year.

### **Submission of Dissertation Proposals and Dissertations**

12. Students registered for the Degree shall be required to submit an individual dissertation which shall not exceed 60,000 words, excluding bibliography, appendices and abstract, and which shall be written in accordance with the guidelines approved and published by the Board of Studies.

13. Students shall be required to submit their dissertation proposal for the Degree to the Board of Studies by the end of the first semester of Year 2.

14. Not less than three months before the submission deadline, students shall be required to inform the Faculty that they will be submitting their dissertation for examination.

15. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Board of Examiners for each dissertation, in accordance with the Principal Regulations.

16. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their dissertation for each member of the Board of Examiners, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Faculty shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Faculty two hard bound copies of the dissertation and one copy in digital format within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the dissertation shall be kept in the Library of the Department of Leadership for Learning and Innovation and the digital copy at the University Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree or the Master's Degree.

### **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.

### **General Provision**

18. In matters not provided for by these bye-laws, the Board and Senate shall be guided by the provisions of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021, published as Legal Notice 371 of 2021, as applicable.