

Legal Notice 295 of 2019 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,290 – 5 November, 2019
Amended by:
Legal Notice 253 of 2021 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,642 – 11 June, 2021
Legal Notice 144 of 2024 - Malta Government Gazette No.21,273 – 21 June, 2024

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2019 in terms of the
General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the
Degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Studies - M.Sc. -
under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine
and Surgery and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing**

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 bye-laws made by the Boards of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing in virtue of the powers conferred upon them 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 2019 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Studies - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

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

“the Boards” means the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies appointed by Senate for the Course on the recommendations of the Boards of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Studies - M.Sc.;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Science in Mental Health Studies - M.Sc.;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Studies - P.G. Dip.; 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 2019 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to warranted professionals in possession of a first cycle qualification or higher, awarded by this University or any other higher education institution recognized by Senate, obtained with at least Second Class (Honours) or equivalent, in any one of the following areas:

(a) Communication Therapy, Counselling, Education, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, Psychotherapy, Social Work and Youth Work; or

(b) any other area deemed suitable by the Board of Studies.

(2) The Board of Studies may, at its own discretion, recommend to the University Admissions Board that applicants in possession of a qualification indicated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law who are not yet warranted to practise, may still be accepted to join the course.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2021 or later:

3. (1) The Course shall be open to warranted professionals in possession of a valid registration/licence with the relevant professional council and a first cycle qualification or higher, awarded by this University or any other higher education institution recognized by Senate, obtained with at least Second Class (Honours) or equivalent, in any one of the following areas:

(a) Communication Therapy, Counselling, Education, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, Psychotherapy, Social Work and Youth Work; or

(b) any other area deemed suitable by the Board of Studies.

(2) Applicants in possession of all the required academic qualifications for the acquisition of the respective warrant/license to practise (according to Maltese law) but who are still not in possession of the warrant/license to practice shall also be considered eligible,

provided that holders of temporary warrants who do not hold the full academic requirements required by the respective regulatory body to obtain a permanent warrant to practice will not be accepted.

(3) All applicants shall submit with their application a Police Good Conduct Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police in terms of the Conduct Certificates Ordinance.

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

(5) When the number of places is so limited and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected using the following criteria, the weighting of which shall be published at the time of the call for applications:

- (a) degree class;
- (b) experience in the area of the proposed study; and
- (c) performance during an interview, if deemed necessary.

(6) Interviews, if necessary, shall be conducted by a board composed of at least three members appointed for the purpose by the Boards.

(7) For the purpose of selection, applicants who fully satisfy the entry requirements by 31st August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

Paragraph (8) shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2024 or later:

(8) During the first year of the Course, accepted applicants may be required to undergo an occupational health assessment so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies. Students who do not fulfil this requirement may be barred from progressing with their studies. Failure to disclose information about a physical or mental health problem that could affect patient safety is considered to be a serious breach of the University Suitability to Practise Regulations.

Course Duration

4. The Course shall extend over six semesters of part-time study.

Board of Studies

5. (1) The academic administration of the Course shall be entrusted to a Board of Studies appointed for the purpose.

- (2) The Board of Studies, which shall be appointed for a period of one academic year, shall be composed as follows:

- (a) the Deans of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty of Social Wellbeing, or their respective delegate, one of whom shall be appointed Chairman on the joint recommendation of the three Faculties;

- (b) at least two academic members of staff from each of the three Faculties; and

- (c) two students elected from amongst the students registered on the Course.

Programme of Study

6. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 ECTS credits are assigned, of which 60 ECTS credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 ECTS credits are assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

- (2) During the first year of the Course students shall be required to indicate their chosen stream of study for the second year of the Course.

7. 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 the Postgraduate Diploma.

8. Students shall be eligible for the award of the Degree if they obtain the 90 ECTS credits as outlined in the programme of study for the Course with an average mark of at least 50%.

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

Dissertation

10. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 15,000 to 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the final two semesters 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 of Studies for approval by the end of the third semester.

11. (1) 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 studies. 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 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

12. 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 programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.