

Legal Notice 213 of 2008 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,309 – 16 September 2008
Amended by:
Legal Notice 23 of 2012 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,859 – 24 January 2012
Legal Notice 193 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,111 – 19 July 2013
Legal Notice 408 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,172 – 26 November 2013
Legal Notice 323 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,310 – 16 September 2014
Legal Notice 292 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,633 – 2 September 2016
Legal Notice 50 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,723 – 7 February 2017
Legal Notice 218 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,857 – 1 September 2017
Legal Notice 198 of 2018 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,015 – 26 June 2018
Legal Notice 58 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,158 – 2 April 2019
Legal Notice 304 of 2022 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,965 – 25 November 2022
Legal Notice 173 of 2023 – Malta Government Gazette No. 21,088 – 19 July 2023

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2008 in terms of the
General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004
for the Degrees of Bachelor of Science - B.Sc. -
and Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc. (Hons) -
under the auspices of the Faculty of Science**

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 Board of the Faculty of Science in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81(1) 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 2008 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the degrees of Bachelor of Science - B.Sc. - and Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Science.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Science;

"the Course" means the programme of studies leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science - B.Sc. - or the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc. (Hons) - as appropriate;

"the Degree" means the degree of Bachelor of Science - B.Sc. – or the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc. (Hons) - as appropriate;

"the Diploma" means the Diploma in Science;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Science;

"the Higher Diploma" means the Higher Diploma in Science; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2008 or later.

Special Course Requirements for Admission

3. 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 special course requirements as follows:

(a) **Banking and Finance:** a pass in Pure Mathematics (Intermediate);

(b) **Biology:** passes in Biology (Advanced, grade C or better) and Chemistry (Intermediate, grade C or better);

(c) **Chemistry:** passes in Chemistry (Advanced, grade C or better) and either Physics or Pure Mathematics (Intermediate, grade C or better);

(d) **Computational Physics:**
passes in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better) and Physics (Intermediate, grade C or better);

(e) **Computing Science:** a pass in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better);

(f) **Geosciences:**
either passes in Physics (Advanced, grade C or better) and Pure Mathematics (Intermediate, grade C or better);
or passes in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better) and Physics (Intermediate, grade C or better);
or passes in Chemistry (Advanced, grade C or better) and Pure Mathematics (Intermediate, grade C or better) and Physics (Intermediate, grade C or better);
or passes in Computing (Advanced, grade C or better) and Pure Mathematics (Intermediate, grade C or better) and Physics (Intermediate, grade C or better);

(g) **Mathematics:** a pass in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better);

(h) **Physics:**
either passes in Physics (Advanced, grade C or better) and Pure Mathematics (Intermediate, grade C or better);
or passes in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better) and Physics (Intermediate, grade C or better);

(i) **Statistics and Operations Research:**
either a pass in Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade C or better);
or passes in Computing or Information Technology (Advanced, grade C or better) and Pure Mathematics (Advanced, grade D or better);

The following paragraph (2) shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:

(2) Applicants who possess a grade D when the minimum specified grade is C in only one of the required subjects, whether at Advanced or Intermediate Level, of the special course requirements indicated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law, shall be admitted under those conditions as the Board may impose to compensate for the qualification deficiency. If, by the end of the first year, such students do not successfully complete all the requirements to progress regularly to the second year of the Course, they shall be required to withdraw from the Course, and shall neither be entitled to repeat the year nor to progress conditionally as normally permitted under the Principal Regulations.

Paragraph (1) has been renumbered as bye-law 3.

Course Duration

4. (1) The course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in one main area of study, which may be taken with one subsidiary area, shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study.

(2) The course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in two subjects as main areas of study shall extend over a period of four years of full-time study.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:

Course Duration

4. (1) The Course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in one main area of study, which may be taken with one subsidiary area,

shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

(2) The Course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in two subjects as main areas of study shall extend over a period of four years of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

Areas of Study

5. (1) The degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in one main area of study may be offered in any area of study that falls within the responsibility of the Faculty, as approved by the Board.

(2) The degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) may also be offered either in two main areas of study from the areas listed in (a), or in one main area of study from option (a) and one main area of study from option (b), as approved by the Board:

(a) Biology, Chemistry, Computational Physics, Geosciences, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Operations Research;

(b) Banking and Finance, Computing Science, Philosophy.

(3) Subject to approval by Senate, the Board may also allow any of the areas of study indicated in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2) of this bye-law to be offered jointly with other areas of study which fall under the responsibility of other academic entities within the University, provided that in such instances, applicants shall be required to be in possession of those qualifications relevant to their chosen second main area of study as indicated in the bye-laws for the degree in the area of study offered under the auspices of the academic entity responsible for the discipline.

6. The areas of study offered in any particular year and the permissible combinations of areas of study shall be published by the Board before the commencement of each Course, provided that in any year, combinations of areas of study shall be offered depending on the availability of resources and the number of applicants who choose them.

Publication of Programmes

7. The Board shall publish the programme of study for each area of study, as approved by Senate, before 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 shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Principal Regulations.

Course Programme for the Degree in one Main Area of Study

8. (1) The Course shall consist of study-units to which 180 credits are assigned.

(2) The Course may be offered either in one area of study as a main area, or in one main area of study with a subsidiary area as approved by the Board, provided that not less than 110 credits shall be assigned to the main area of study.

(3) Programmes of study for the areas that may be taken as subsidiary areas shall be those published by the boards of the academic entities responsible for them.

(4) The third year of the Course shall include a dissertation to which not less than 10 credits and not more than 20 credits shall be assigned:

provided that in the case of Mathematics and Computational Physics, the dissertation may be substituted by one or more additional taught study-units.

(5) Students who successfully complete study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned and opt not to proceed with the Course or, having proceeded, do not successfully complete the Course, shall be entitled to the Diploma.

(6) Students who successfully complete study-units to which 120 ECTS credits are assigned and opt not to proceed with the Course or, having proceeded, do not successfully complete the Course, shall be entitled to the Higher Diploma.

Course Programme for the degree in two main areas of study

9. The Course shall consist of two parts, namely, Part One comprising the first three years and Part Two comprising the fourth year.

10. (1) Part One shall consist of study-units to which 180 credits are assigned divided as follows:

First Year:	60 credits of which not less than 26 credits in each of the two areas of study;
Second Year:	30 credits in each of the two areas of study;
Third Year:	30 credits in each of the two areas of study.

(2) At the end of Part One, students who obtain 180 credits as specified in paragraph (1) of this bye-law but who either opt not to proceed with the Course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) – B.Sc. (Hons.), or having proceeded, do not successfully complete the Course, shall be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) classified in terms of bye-law 13.

11. (1) Part Two shall consist of study-units to which 60 credits are assigned divided as follows:

- (a) 40 credits in one area of study, of which not less than 10 credits and not more than 20 credits are assigned to a dissertation; and
 - (b) 20 credits in the other area of study:
- provided that in the case of Mathematics, the dissertation may be substituted by one or more additional taught study-units.

12. (1) In a Course Programme for the Degree in two main areas of study, students who fail in any study-unit, except a compulsory study-unit that is declared to be non-compensatable in a Programme of Study, with a mark of not less than 35% in the unit and whose current Year Average Mark in the Programme of Study for the Area of Study to which the study-unit is assigned is at least 50%, shall be awarded the grade CP and shall be awarded credit for the unit by compensation and shall not be required to be reassessed.

(2) Students who successfully complete study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned and opt not to proceed with the Course or, having proceeded, do not successfully complete the Course, shall be entitled to the Diploma.

(3) Students who successfully complete study-units to which 120 ECTS credits are assigned and opt not to proceed with the Course or, having proceeded, do not successfully complete the Course, shall be entitled to the Higher Diploma.

Classification of the Degree

13. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the classification of the Diploma, the Higher Diploma and the Degree, shall be based on the results obtained in each year of the Course, all years being weighted equally.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:

Provisions for Part-Time Courses

14. 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.

15. The Course may be offered on a flexible part-time basis with the following special provisions in terms of the provisions outlined in the Principal Regulations, applicable with the necessary changes needed (*mutatis mutandis*) owing to the part-time nature of the Course:

(a) During each academic year, students shall be allowed to register for a number of study-units as agreed with the Course Coordinator, to which not less than 12 ECTS credits are assigned, provided that registration for the study-units included in the programme of study for each Course year (60 ECTS credits) is spread over not more than 3 academic years;

(b) In order to progress regularly from one Course year to the next, the 60 ECTS credits of each Course year must be completed in not more than 3 academic years;

(c) Students who are absent for the assessment of a study-unit, or fail in the assessment of a study-unit, shall, if eligible, be required to take the assessment of any number of such incomplete study-units at the September assessment session or at the next available opportunity;

(d) If necessary, students may be allowed to refer the assessment of a study-unit to the next academic year, provided that not more than 12 ECTS credits may be referred from one Course year to the next;

(e) The assessment of study-units that may be referred to the next academic year shall be considered as additional to the minimum number of 12 ECTS credits that students are obliged to register for during any academic year;

(f) Students who, after having registered for all the study-units comprising the programme of a Course year, and who after the September session lack more than 12 ECTS credits to complete the programme for the Course year, may be allowed, if eligible and after academic advice, to refer them to the next academic year during which they shall not be allowed to register for any other study-units. If such an academic year is needed in addition to the maximum period of three years referred to in paragraph (b), it shall be considered as an additional year;

(g) Students who, after having registered for all the study-units comprising the programme of the final year, may, if necessary and if eligible, refer any incomplete study-units to an additional academic year;

(h) An additional year, whether required in terms of paragraphs (f) or (g) may be granted once only throughout the Course, unless in special circumstances and with the approval of Senate;

(i) Students registered on the flexible part-time programme must obtain the approval of the Course Coordinator before they are registered on the study-units they wish to follow in any academic year;

(j) Subject to approval by the Board, students registered on the Course may be allowed to change the mode of attendance from full-time to flexible part-time or *vice versa* at the beginning of the second year of the regular programme of

study. Changes in the mode of attendance in any subsequent year of the Course may be considered by the Board, if the course programme permits; and

(k) Notwithstanding the provisions in the Principal Regulations, owing to the nature of the course when offered on a flexible part-time basis that allows for a longer duration than normal, students registered on such a flexible part-time Course programme shall not be entitled to ever repeat a Course year in its entirety, nor to an extension year after each Course year.

Repeal

16. The Bye-Laws of 2005 for the Degrees of Bachelor of Science – B.Sc. – and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – B.Sc.(Hons), published as Legal Notice 152 of 2005, as amended by Legal Notices 123 of 2006 and 258 of 2007, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2008, provided that students registered for this course before the 1st October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their joining the course.

