

Legal Notice 484 of 2012 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,009 – 28 December 2012  
Amended by:

Legal Notice 375 of 2014 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,323 – 10 October 2014

Legal Notice 158 of 2016 - Malta Government Gazette No. 19,570 – 9 May 2016

Legal Notice 131 of 2020 - Malta Government Gazette No. 20,382 – 3 April 2020

Legal Notice 432 of 2021 - Malta Government Gazette No. 20,734 – 12 November 2021

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

### **Bye-Laws of 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice under the auspices of 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 Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing 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 2012 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

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

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice; 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 February 2012 or later.

### **Requirements for Admission**

3.(1) The Course shall be open to applicants who are proficient in the Maltese Language and who are in possession of the following qualifications: a Bachelor degree from this University, or another institution recognized by Senate for the purpose, with at least Second Class Honours in Psychology, Social Work, Education, Youth and Community Studies or in an area of study related to a caring profession, including psychotherapy, counselling, nursing, midwifery, mediation, pastoral counselling and psychiatry.

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

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants who are proficient in the Maltese Language and who are in possession of the following qualifications: a Bachelor degree from this University, or another institution recognized by Senate for the purpose, with at least Second Class Honours in Psychology, Social Work, Education, Youth and Community Studies or in any other area of study deemed relevant by the Board.

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

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants who are proficient in the Maltese Language and who are in possession of the following qualifications: a Bachelor degree from this University, or another higher education institution recognized by Senate for the purpose, with at least Second Class Honours or Category II in Psychology, Social Work, Education, Youth and Community Studies or in any other area of study deemed relevant by the Board.

(2) Applicants referred to in paragraph (1) of this bye-law are also required to have one year work experience that is normally gained within one of the health or social sciences/disciplines or equivalent. Applicants are required to present a letter of attestation demonstrating that they are in possession of a minimum of 1200 hours of work experience in the mentioned sciences/disciplines and two reference letters for the consideration of the Board of Studies.

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

(2) Applicants referred to in paragraph (1) of this bye-law are also required to have one year work experience that is normally gained within the psychosocial sector. Applicants are required to present a letter of attestation demonstrating that they are in possession of a minimum of 1200 hours of such work experience. Work experience that is gained from within the voluntary sector shall also be considered.

(3) Applicants in possession of a recognized Postgraduate Diploma in Family Therapy may be allowed to join Part II of the Course, provided that such applicants shall satisfy the Board of Studies that they have reached the academic standard required to follow the Course with profit.

(4) All applicants shall be required to demonstrate that they have the necessary aptitude and disposition to follow the Course with profit.

(5) (a) Professional aptitude and disposition shall be measured by means of exercises involving (i) role play and group discussion and (ii) an extended personal interview conducted by a board appointed for the purpose; and

(b) Applicants who obtain less than 60% for the professional aptitude and disposition criterion shall automatically not be admitted into the Course.

(6) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine 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 announced at the time of the call for applications.

(7) When the number of applicants that may be admitted to the Course is limited in terms of paragraph (6) of this bye-law, and the number of applicants who satisfy the aptitude criterion as specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of this bye-law exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected according to the following criteria, which shall be weighted as follows:

- (a) degree type and classification – 20%;
- (b) work experience as required in paragraph (2) of this bye-law (10%);
- (c) reference letters (5%); and
- (d) aptitude and disposition (based on the result of paragraph (5) of this bye-law) – 65%.

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

(9) For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications as stipulated in paragraphs (1) to (3) of this bye-law were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

### **Course duration**

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

### **Programme of Study**

5. (1) The programme of study shall consist of two parts, namely:

(a) Part One which shall comprise a number of taught and practical study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned; and

(b) Part Two consisting of taught and practical study-units to which 30 ECTS credits are assigned, and research work and the writing of a dissertation to which another 30 ECTS credits are assigned.

(2) The practical study-units may be held during the day and/or in the evening.

<b>Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:</b>
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<p>(3) In cases where applicants lack essential knowledge in the area of research methodology, the Board may require students admitted to the Course to follow and pass supplementary study-unit/s in the said area to which a maximum of 12 ECTS credits are assigned in addition to the programme of study specified in paragraph (1) of bye-law 5.</p>
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(4) Students who obtain 60 ECTS credits assigned to taught and practical 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.

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

### **Assessment and Progress**

6. (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 any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment/s during the September supplementary examination session,

provided that students who fail in a study-unit involving a placement that requires assessment over a period of time shall not have the right to a supplementary assessment and shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

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

(2) Students who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment/s during the September assessment session.

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

(3) Subject to the conditions specified in paragraph (2) of this bye-law, students who fail the assessment of a study-unit involving a work placement, clinical practice or any other unit that requires assessment over a period of time, when it is not practicable or possible for the re-assessment to be undertaken during the same academic year, shall be required to re-do the unit during an additional year. The additional year shall not be taken into account for the purpose of Course duration. If successful on re-assessment of such units, and if otherwise eligible, students shall be allowed to continue with the Course at the next available opportunity.

(4) 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 credit for any study-unit, shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

**Dissertation**

7. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 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 date indicated by the Board of Studies.

8. (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, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. 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 the Principal 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.

### **Classification of the Awards**

9. 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.

### **Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses**

10. 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 of Studies as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.