

Legal Notice 373 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette 19,163 – 8 November 2013
Amended by:
Legal Notice 215 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette 19,272 – 27 June 2014
Legal Notice 368 of 2014 - Malta Government Gazette 19,323 – 10 October 2014
Legal Notice 376 of 2018 - Malta Government Gazette 20,086 – 13 November 2018

EDUCATION ACT (CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Arts in Criminology – M.A. (Crim.) - 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 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Criminology – M.A. (Crim.) - 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 for the Course, on the recommendation of the Board;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Criminology – M.A. (Crim.);

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in Criminology – M.A. (Crim.); 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 2013 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours from this University in an area of study deemed relevant by the Board; or

(b) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Category II from this University in an area of study deemed relevant by the Board; or

(c) a Bachelor degree from another university recognized by Senate comparable to the qualifications indicated in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this bye-law.

(2) The admission of applicants shall be made conditional on the result of an interview conducted by an interviewing board appointed for the purpose.

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

(4) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The Board shall announce the number of available places 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 will be selected using the following criteria, the weighting of which shall be published at the time of the call for applications:

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

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

Preparatory Programme

4. Applicants not in possession of an Honours degree admitted under subparagraphs (b) and (c) (if applicable) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 3 shall be required

to complete a preparatory programme, comprising not less than 30 ECTS and not more than 60 ECTS credits as directed by the Board, depending on the number of credits already obtained in an area of study related to Criminology, with an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

Course Duration

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

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 10 ECTS credits are assigned to taught study-units and 80 ECTS credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

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

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2019 or later:

(3) In cases where students lack essential knowledge in the area of criminological theory, 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 this bye-law.

Assessment and Progress

7. (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 fail the assessment for the taught study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

Dissertation

8. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 40,000 to 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course after approval of the research proposal. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) The provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal outlining the proposed project and the main questions to be addressed shall be submitted to the Board of Studies for approval at the time of application.

9. (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 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 Award

10. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

11. 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.