

Legal Notice 547 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,690 – 21 December 2010  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 471 of 2011 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,841 – 9 December 2011  
Legal Notice 157 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,570 – 9 May 2016  
Legal Notice 132 of 2023 – Malta Government Gazette No. 21,074 – 23 June 2023

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

### **Bye-Laws of 2016 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021 for the Degree of Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics - M.Ger. - 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 2016 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021 for the degree of Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics - M.Ger. - 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 Gerontology and Geriatrics - M.Ger.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics – M.Ger.;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics – P.G.Dip. Ger.; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021.

## **Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2010 or later.

## **Requirements for Admission**

3. Applicants seeking admission to the Course shall be in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours or Category II, or a professional qualification considered by the Board to be comparable to a degree, in a discipline pertaining to one of the caring professions; or

(b) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours or Category II, or a professional qualification considered by the Board to be comparable to a degree deemed by the Board as relevant and adequate for the applicant to follow the Course with profit; or

(c) a Bachelor degree obtained with Third Class Honours or Category III if applicants are also in possession of other qualifications, including relevant experience, following their first cycle degree; or

(d) in exceptional cases, a professional qualification in one of the caring professions, together with at least five years' experience, which together are deemed by the Admissions Board, on the advice of the Faculty Admissions Committee, to be comparable to the level of a first degree.

(e) Applicants in possession of the Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics may be allowed to join the research component of the Course, if they have successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma programme with a minimum average mark of 65%.

<b>Applicable for courses commencing in October 2023 or later:</b>
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<p>(e) Applicants in possession of the Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics may be allowed to join the research component of the Course, if they have successfully completed the postgraduate Diploma programme with a minimum average mark of 55%.</p>
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## **Course Duration**

4. The duration of the Course shall extend over three semesters. The taught study-units shall be offered on a full-time basis over the first two semesters of the Course. The research component may be followed on a full-time basis over a further period of one semester or on a part-time basis over a period of two semesters.

## **Programme of Study**

5. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which 60 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits assigned to the research dissertation.

6. (1) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the taught study-units with an average mark of at least 65% shall be allowed to proceed to the research dissertation. If such students opt not to proceed with their studies, they shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

(2) Students who successfully complete all the taught study-units with a Final Weighted Average Mark of between 50% and 64%, or students who proceed to the research component but fail in the dissertation, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

7. 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**

8. (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 credits, if following the Course full-time, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course part-time, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail 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 deemed to have failed the Course.

## **Dissertation**

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

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third semester 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) In the case of students not residing in Malta, the Board of Studies shall allow them to perform their research-based dissertation in their respective country.

(4) A provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board of Studies for approval at the end of the second semester.

10. (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 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 the 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**

11. 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**

12. 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.

### **Repeal**

13. The Postgraduate Diploma and Degree of Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics – P.G.Dip.Ger. and M.Ger. - Course Regulations, 2006, published as Legal Notice 300 of 2006, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, provided that students registered for this course before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.