

Legal Notice 32 of 2018 - Malta Government Gazette No.19,941 – 30 January 2018
Amended by:
Legal Notice 206 of 2018 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,019 – 28 June 2018
Legal Notice 127 of 2020 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,382 – 3 April 2020
Legal Notice 174 of 2021 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,610 – 20 April 2021
Legal Notice 156 of 2022 - Malta Government Gazette No.20,865 – 24 May 2022
As approved by Senate of 26 June 2025

EDUCATION ACT (CAP. 327)

Bye-laws of 2018 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Social Work 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 2018 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Social Work 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 Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Social Work;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Social Work;

“the Postgraduate Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in Social Care Studies;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Care Studies; 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 2017 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants who are in possession of the following qualifications:

(a) a Bachelor degree from this University or any higher education institution recognised by Senate, in Social Policy, Psychology, Youth and Community Studies or Social Wellbeing Studies, obtained with at least Second Class Honours and with a minimum average mark of 65%; or

(b) a Bachelor degree from this University or another higher education institution recognised by Senate, obtained with at least Category II and with a minimum overall average mark of 65% in any two of the following areas of study: Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology or Social Studies; or

(c) a Bachelor degree from this University or another higher education institution recognised by Senate, in Theology with Psychology or Social Studies or Sociology, obtained with at least Category II and with a minimum overall average mark of 65%; or

(d) a Bachelor degree from this University or another higher education institution recognised by Senate, obtained with at least Second Class Honours and with a minimum average mark of 65% in any area of study.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2025 or later:

(d) a Bachelor degree from this University or another higher education institution recognised by Senate, obtained with at least Second Class Honours and with a minimum average mark of 65% in any area of study together with a minimum of 300 hours of social care-related experience gained over a maximum period of ten years immediately prior to the commencement of the Course. A letter or letters of attestation demonstrating that the applicant has gained the requisite experience must be presented. Applicants shall also be required to present written reflections of their social care-related experience during an interview.

(2) Apart from being in possession of one of the qualifications indicated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law, all applicants shall:

(a) have gained experience related to social care as follows:

(i) applicants admitted under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law shall be required to have a minimum of 150 hours of experience; and

(ii) applicants admitted under sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) of this bye-law shall be required to have a minimum of 500 hours of experience;

(b) the experience stipulated in both sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(a) must have been gained over a maximum period of ten years immediately prior to the commencement of the Course. A letter or letters of attestation demonstrating that the applicant has gained the requisite experience must be presented;

(c) present written reflections about their social care-related experience during an interview;

(d) not be included in the Register established under the *Protection of Minors (Registration) Act* (CAP. 518); and

(e) demonstrate that they have the necessary aptitude and disposition to follow the Course with profit.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2025 or later:

(2) Applicants must not be listed in the Register established under the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act (CAP. 518). Upon acceptance into the Course, applicants will be required to submit an original Police Good Conduct Certificate, issued by the Commissioner of Police under the Conduct Certificates Ordinance. The certificate must be issued within six months before the date of its submission.

(3) (a) Professional aptitude and disposition shall be measured by means of a personal interview. Interviews shall be conducted by an interviewing board composed of at least three members, appointed by the Board for the purpose.

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

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2025 or later:

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

(b) Professional aptitude and disposition shall be measured by means

of a personal interview. Interviews shall be conducted by an interviewing board composed of at least three members, appointed by the Board for the purpose.

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

The following paragraphs (4) to (6) shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2025 or later:

(4) Depending on the availability of resources, Senate on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course. The number of places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(5) When the number of applicants that may be admitted to the Course is limited in terms of paragraph (4) of this bye-law, and the number of applicants who satisfy the aptitude criterion as specified in paragraph (3) 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 – 30%;*
- (b) social-care related experience – 15%;*
- (c) professional aptitude and disposition – 50%; and*
- (d) references – 5%.*

(6) Applications for the Course shall be submitted by the deadline announced by the University of Malta. 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.

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 study-units to which a total of 120 ECTS credits are assigned, and shall comprise 60 ECTS credits for taught study-units, 30 ECTS credits for two work placements, and 30 ECTS credits for a dissertation.

(2) Students who obtain 30 ECTS credits assigned to 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 Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

(3) Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to 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 Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

6. In cases where students lack essential knowledge in the subject area, the Board may require students admitted to the Course to follow and pass supplementary study-units to which a maximum of 12 ECTS credits are assigned in addition to the programme of study specified in bye-law 5 of these bye-laws.

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.

The following bye-law 8 shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2025 or later:

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 ECTS credits for taught study-units, if following the full-time course, or 10 ECTS credits for taught study-units if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail to pass in a work placement shall not have the right to a supplementary assessment in the same academic year but shall be required to re-do the work placement during an additional year of studies. Such an additional year shall not be counted for the purpose of Course duration.

(4) 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 and shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

Dissertation

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

9. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board 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 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 may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

Classification of the Awards

10. 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

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