

Legal Notice 295 of 2008 - Malta Government Gazette No.18,342 - 18 November 2008
Amended by:
Legal Notice 126 of 2009 - Malta Government Gazette No. 18,404 – 17 April 2009
Legal Notice 6 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette no. 18,531 – 8 January 2010
Legal Notice 252 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette no. 19,867 – 22 September 2017
Legal Notice 170 of 2022 – Malta Government Gazette no. 20,878 – 17 June 2022

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2008 in terms of the
General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008
for the Degree of Master of Arts in Spiritual Companionship
under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology**

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 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 Theology in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 81 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by section 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 Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Spiritual Companionship under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Theology;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Spiritual Companionship;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master of Arts in Spiritual Companionship;

“the Postgraduate Certificate” means the Postgraduate Certificate in Spiritual Companionship;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Spiritual Companionship; 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 2008 or later.

Requirements for Admission

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

(a) a Bachelor degree in Theology, Religious Studies or related areas of study, obtained with at least Second Class Honours or with at least Category II or at least *Cum Laude*;

(b) a Bachelor degree in any area of study together with experience related to Spiritual Companionship;

(c) in exceptional cases the Admissions Board, on the recommendation of the Board, may admit into the Course applicants not in possession of a Bachelor degree, provided that it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other academic or professional qualifications and experience that together are deemed to be comparable to the level of a first degree.

(2) All applicants shall be required to submit to an assessment to determine their suitability to follow the Course.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2022 or later:

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

(a) a Bachelor degree in Theology, Religious Studies or related areas of study, obtained with at least Second Class Honours or with at least Category II or at least *Cum Laude*; or

(b) a Bachelor degree in any area of study together with experience related to Spiritual Companionship.

(2) The Faculty Admissions Committee may, after thorough examination of documents submitted in support of the qualifications presented, and following an interview, recommend the admission of applicants applying for admission in terms of the University's Policy for the Recognition and Accreditation of Prior Learning (RPL) who are in possession of other academic or professional qualifications and documented experience if these are deemed to be comparable to the qualifications referred to in paragraph (1) of this bye-law. The admission of such

applicants may be made subject to those conditions that may be imposed to address any lacunae in the applicants' academic preparation and experience that together are deemed to be comparable to the level of a first degree.

(3) All applicants shall satisfy the Board through an interview, that they have the necessary academic background, professional aptitude and disposition to follow the Course with profit. The interview shall be conducted by an interviewing board appointed by the Board, and shall be composed of at least three members.

(4) All applicants shall submit a Police Good Conduct Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police in terms of the Conduct Certificates Ordinance.

Course Duration

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

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 are assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

6. (1) Students who obtain the 30 credits assigned to the taught study-units in the first semester with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the 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 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 for taught study-units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 credits 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 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 15,000 - 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) A provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

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

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12 August 2008