

Legal Notice 186 of 2005 – Malta Government Gazette No. 17,778 – 10 June 2005  
Amended by:  
Legal Notice 122 of 2006 – Malta Government Gazette No. 17,928 - 30 May 2006  
Legal Notice 122 of 2009 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,404 – 17 April 2009  
Legal Notice 1 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,531 – 8 January 2010  
Legal Notice 290 of 2011 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,782 – 22 July 2011  
Legal Notice 391 of 2011 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,812 – 30 September 2011  
Legal Notice 163 of 2012 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,920 – 25 May 2012  
Legal Notice 390 of 2012 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,987 – 13 November 2012  
Legal Notice 228 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,274 – 4 July 2014  
Legal Notice 350 of 2014 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,320 – 3 October 2014  
Legal Notice 98 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,395 – 20 March 2015  
Legal Notice 307 of 2015 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,479 – 29 September 2015  
Legal Notice 153 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,570 – 9 May 2016  
Legal Notice 182 of 2016 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,579 – 24 May 2016  
Legal Notice 277 of 2017 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,882 – 11 October 2017  
Legal Notice 131 of 2018 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,981 – 20 April 2018  
Legal Notice 325 of 2018 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,069 – 12 October 2018  
Legal Notice 307 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,299 – 22 November 2019  
Legal Notice 267 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,428 – 26 June 2020  
Legal Notice 354 of 2020 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,472 – 28 August 2020

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

### **Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences**

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 of Health Sciences 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 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) – B.Sc. (Hons) - under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences;

“the Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies appointed for each area of study;

“the Course” means the programme of study leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc.(Hons);

“the Degree” means the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) - B.Sc.(Hons); and

“the Principal Regulations” means the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004.

### **Applicability**

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2003 or later.

### **Special Course Requirements for Admission**

3. To be registered as regular students in the Course applicants shall, apart from satisfying the general requirements for admission as specified in the Admission Regulations, be in possession of special course requirements depending on the area of study chosen as follows:

(a) **Applied Biomedical Science:** passes at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and Chemistry; and a pass at Intermediate Level in Physics;

(b) **Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences:** passes at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and Chemistry; and a pass at Intermediate Level in either Mathematics or Physics;

(c) **Communication Therapy:** two passes at Grade C or better, at least one of which must be at Advanced Level and one at Intermediate Level, in Biology and in either English or Maltese;

*The following paragraph (d) shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:*

*(d) Environmental Health: passes at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and Chemistry; and a pass at Intermediate Level in Physics;*

(d) **Mental Health Nursing:** a pass at Advanced Level in Biology, provided that applicants in possession of a pass in the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, together with the MCAST Level 5 Award in Health Sciences shall be considered as having satisfied both the general and special entry requirements.

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

(d) **Mental Health Nursing:** a pass at Grade C or better in Biology at Intermediate Level, or a pass at Advanced Level in Biology, provided that applicants in possession of a pass in the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, together with the MCAST Level 5 Award in Health Sciences shall be considered as having satisfied both the general and special entry requirements.

(e) **Midwifery:** a pass at Advanced Level in Biology;

(f) **Nursing:** a pass at Advanced Level in Biology, provided that applicants in possession of a pass in the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, together with the MCAST Level 5 Award in Health Sciences shall be considered as having satisfied both the general and special entry requirements.

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

(f) **Nursing:** (i) successful completion of a values-based test, provided that for admission in October 2020 only, applicants in possession of a pass in the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, together with the MCAST Level 5 Award in Health Sciences shall be considered as having satisfied both the General Entry and the values-based Requirements.

(ii) Applicants not in possession of the General Entry Requirements may be admitted to the Course if they obtain a pass in the 60 ECTS credits of the Preparatory Course specifically related to Nursing as detailed in Appendix I to these bye-laws. Applicants are required to complete the Preparatory Course programme immediately prior to the commencement of the Course. The requirements for admission and successful completion of the Preparatory Course are listed in Appendix I to these bye-laws;

(g) **Occupational Therapy:** a pass at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology;

(h) **Physiotherapy:** a pass at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology; and a pass at Intermediate Level in Physics;

(i) **Podiatry:** a pass at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and Chemistry; and a pass at Intermediate Level in Physics;

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2017 or later:**

(i) **Podiatry:** a pass at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology, a pass at Advanced Level in Chemistry; and a pass at Intermediate Level in Physics;

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

(i) **Podiatry:** a pass at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and a pass at Intermediate Level in either Chemistry or Physics; and

(j) **Radiography:** a pass at Advanced Level in Biology. Applicants shall be required to be aged not less than 18 years within three months from the date on which the Course commences.

4. (1) Applicants choosing the Applied Biomedical Science area of study who possess a grade D instead of a grade C in one of the required subjects at Advanced Level indicated in paragraph (a) of bye-law 3 shall be admitted under those conditions as the Admissions Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences may impose to compensate for the missing element. If, by the end of the first year of the Course, such students do not successfully complete all the requirements to progress regularly to the second year of the Course, they shall be required to withdraw from the Course, and shall neither be entitled to repeat the year nor to progress conditionally as normally permitted under the Principal Regulations

(2) Applicants choosing the Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences area of study who possess a grade D instead of a grade C in one of the required subjects at Advanced Level indicated in paragraph (b) of bye-law 3 shall be admitted under those conditions as the Admissions Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences may impose to compensate for the missing element. If, by the end of the first year of the Course, such students do not successfully complete all the requirements to progress regularly to the second year of the Course, they shall be required to withdraw from the Course, and shall neither be entitled to repeat the year nor to progress conditionally as normally permitted under the Principal Regulations.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

(3) Applicants choosing the Podiatry area of study who possess a grade D instead of a grade C in the Advanced Level indicated in paragraph (i) of bye-law 3 shall be admitted under those conditions as the Admissions Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences may impose to compensate for the missing element. If, by the end of the first year of the Course, such students do not successfully complete all the requirements to progress regularly to the second year of the Course, they shall be required to withdraw from the Course, and shall neither be entitled to repeat the

year nor to progress conditionally as normally permitted under the Principal Regulations.

***The following paragraph shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:***

*(3) Applicants choosing the Occupational Therapy area of study who possess a grade D instead of a grade C in the Advanced Level indicated in paragraph (h) of bye-law 3 shall be admitted under those conditions as the Admissions Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences may impose to compensate for the missing element. If, by the end of the first year of the Course, such students do not successfully complete all the requirements to progress regularly to the second year of the Course, they shall be required to withdraw from the Course, and shall neither be entitled to repeat the year nor to progress conditionally as normally permitted under the Principal Regulations.*

5. The Admissions Board, acting on the advice of the relevant Board of Studies, may admit applicants in possession of a Diploma in Health Science into the second or third year of the Course with the same area of study taken in their Diploma, in terms of regulations 8.1 or 8.1.1 of the Admission Regulations of the University.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

5. The Admissions Board, acting on the advice of the relevant Board of Studies, may admit applicants into the second or third year of the Course with the same area of study taken in their Higher Diploma or Diploma, in terms of paragraph (1) of regulation 15 of the Admissions Regulations of the University, if in possession of the following:

(a) the Higher Diploma in Health Science or the Diploma in Health Science awarded by the University of Malta; or

(b) a professional qualification deemed by Senate to be comparable to the qualifications indicated in paragraph (a) of this bye-law.

6. Prior to registering for the Course, eligible applicants are also required to undergo a medical fitness test as directed by the Board so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2019 or later:**

6. During the first year of the Course, students are also required to undergo an occupational health assessment so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies. Students who do not fulfil this requirement may be barred from progressing with their studies. Failure to disclose information about a

physical or mental health problem that could affect patient safety is considered to be a serious breach of the University Suitability to Practise Regulations.

### **Course Duration**

7. (1) The Course for the following areas shall extend over a period of four years of full-time study:

Applied Biomedical Science, Communication Therapy, Dietetics, Environmental Health, Midwifery, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Radiography.

(2) The Course for the Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences, Mental Health Nursing and Nursing areas shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

7. (1) The Course for the following areas shall extend over a period of four years of full-time study, or their equivalent in part-time study: Applied Biomedical Science, Communication Therapy, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Radiography.

(2) The Course for the Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences, Mental Health Nursing and Nursing areas shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study, or their equivalent in part-time study.

### **Areas of Study**

8. The Degree may be awarded in terms of these bye-laws in any one of the following areas of study: Applied Biomedical Science, Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences, Communication Therapy, Environmental Health, Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Radiography or in any other area related to Health Sciences, following approval of Senate.

#### **Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

8. The Degree may be awarded in terms of these bye-laws in any one of the following areas of study: Applied Biomedical Science, Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences, Communication Therapy, Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Radiography or in any other area related to Health Sciences, following approval of Senate.

9. The areas of study offered in any particular year shall be published by the Board before the commencement of each Course.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

9. The areas of study offered in any particular year and the respective mode of attendance, shall be published by the Board before the commencement of each Course.

10. (1) Senate, on the advice of the Board, may limit the number of students that may be admitted to the Course in any or all of the areas of study and shall approve bye-laws for the selection of applicants to the Course in the area/s of study where the number of students that may be admitted is limited. The Board shall announce the number of places available to Maltese and other EU/EEA nationals, and possibly to non-EU/EEA nationals, prior to the commencement of the Course.

(2) Any places for non-EU/EEA nationals shall be filled on the recommendation of the Faculty Admissions Committee that may first consider eligible applicants recommended in terms of agreements the University may enter into with foreign institutions or governments.

**Course Programme**

11. Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of area of study at the time of applying for admission to the Course.

12. The programme of study for each area of study shall have two distinct, although interdependent components, one theoretical, and the other practical/clinical.

13. Subject to changes that the Board may, with the approval of Senate, be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the course programme and in the programme of study of the area of study they are following for the Degree, Provided that course programmes and programmes of study are drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Principal Regulations.

14. Students admitted in terms of bye-law 5, who would have successfully completed the Certificate in Clinical Nursing Practice course with the same area of study for which they are being accepted, will be allowed to transfer the study-units passed during the Certificate course to the course leading to the Degree on condition that they renounce the Certificate.

## **Conditions for Re-assessment of Practical/Clinical Study-Units**

15. (1) Students who fail a clinical practice study-unit or a study-unit involving a practical placement may be required to repeat the study-unit during the summer months before being re-assessed, or if such an arrangement is found not to be possible, re-do the study-unit in an additional year of study.

(2) The conditions for the re-assessment of such study-units shall be indicated in the description of each study-unit that is published in the catalogue.

## **Repeat of the Final Year of Study**

16. The results obtained during the failed year shall not be taken into consideration for the award of the Degree and shall not be included in the student's academic record, provided that, at the discretion of the Board, students registered in a degree comprising both clinical/practical and theoretical components and whose overall Year Average Mark is at least 50%, may be allowed to retain the credits obtained in a successfully completed component but shall be required to repeat the failed component in its entirety.

## **Classification of the Award**

17. The overall evaluation of each student's performance shall be based on the results obtained in each year of the Course weighted according to the following criteria:

### For courses of three years' duration:

First Year Average Mark	30%
Second Year Average Mark	30%
Third Year Average Mark	40%.

### For courses of four years' duration:

First Year Average Mark	15%
Second Year Average Mark	25%
Third Year Average Mark	25%
Fourth Year Average Mark	35%,

provided that for the following areas of study, the results obtained in each year of the Course shall be weighted as follows:

### **Applied Biomedical Science and Occupational Therapy:**

First Year Average Mark	10%
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Second Year Average Mark 25%  
Third Year Average Mark 30%  
Fourth Year Average Mark 35%.

**Radiography:**

First Year Average Mark 15%  
Second Year Average Mark 25%  
Third Year Average Mark 30%  
Fourth Year Average Mark 30%.

**Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:**

**Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses**

18. 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.

<b>Applicable for courses commencing in October 2020 or later:</b>
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## **APPENDIX I**

### **The Preparatory Course**

1. In order to be admitted to the Preparatory Course for the Nursing area of study, applicants are required to be in possession of one of the following:

(a) passes at Grade 3 or better in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in six subjects, including Maltese, English Language and Mathematics; or

(b) passes in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in six subjects, including: Maltese, English Language, Mathematics and either Biology or Health and Social Care, together with a pass at Advanced Level in any other subject; or

(c) from October 2021 onwards, the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Health Studies) or the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, or equivalent.

2. Applicants are further required to be aged not less than 18 years within three months following the date on which the Preparatory Course commences.

3. During the first semester of the Preparatory Course, accepted applicants are also required to undergo an occupational health assessment, so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies. Students who do not fulfil this requirement may be barred from progressing with their studies. Failure to disclose information about a physical or mental health problem that could affect patient safety is considered to be a serious breach of the University Suitability to Practise Regulations.

4. The Preparatory Course shall consist of a number of study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned and shall extend over a period of one year of full-time study.

5. Subject to changes that the Board may, with the approval of Senate, be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the programme of study for the Preparatory Course they are following.

6. Students shall be considered as having successfully completed the Preparatory Course if they obtain all the credits as outlined in the programme of study and obtain an average mark of 55%.

7. The provisions regarding assessment, progression and successful completion of the Preparatory Course, and any other provisions not outlined in this Appendix to these bye-laws shall be those stipulated in the Principal Regulations and shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.