VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 165 of 2010

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Arts in Law under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws

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 Laws in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) 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 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Law under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Laws;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Law;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Arts in Law;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Law; 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 2009 or later.

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Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered in areas of study in law and related areas that fall within the academic responsibility of the Board, after approval by Senate.

Requirements for Admission

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

(a) For the mainly by research Course:

(i) the degree of Doctor of Laws; or

(ii) equivalent qualifications to that listed in sub-paragraph (i) as approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(b) For the mainly taught Course:

(i) a Bachelor's degree in law, including the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Legal and Humanistic Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Socio-Legal Studies, obtained with at least Second Class Honours or Category II; or

(ii) a first cycle qualification other than a degree in law, classified with at least Second Class Honours or Category II, in an area of study related to law and to the programme of study as approved by Senate; or

(iii) equivalent qualifications to those listed in sub-paragraph (i), as approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) Applicants may be required to sit for an interview before being accepted for the Course. The interview shall assess the suitability of those applicants in regard to the particular programme of study offered in the Course for which they have applied. The decision of the Board of Studies shall be final.

(3) Interviews shall be carried out by an Interviewing Board set up for the purpose and consisting of at least three members.

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. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits shall be assigned.

7. (1) The programme of study for any area of study offered in the Course may be either mainly taught or mainly by research.

(2) (a) Mainly taught programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 credits are assigned.

(b) 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 a Postgraduate Diploma.

(3) Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise taught study-units to which 10 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 80 credits are assigned.

(4) Programmes of study shall be published by the Board 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 the taught study-units shall be held by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-units is completed, including the period reserved for end of semester assessments.

(2) Students following a taught programme of study who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits, 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 assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail in 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 required to withdraw from the Course.

Dissertations

9. (1) In a mainly taught programme of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 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.

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(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) In a mainly by research programme of study, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines regarding format issued by the Board. The dissertation must also satisfy the Board as regards content and presentation.

(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 shall be submitted to the Board for approval at the time of application.

11. In all cases, students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisors, who shall submit to the Board progress reports for the students 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

12. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and 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

13. 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.

Repeal

14. The Regulations of 2001 for the Degree of Master of Arts under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws, published as Legal Notice 278 of 2001, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2009, provided that students registered for this course before 1 October 2009 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.

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