L.N. 454 of 2004

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Link Campus Master of Arts - M.A. - Degree Course Regulations, 2004

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30(5) and 31(6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Link Campus Master of Arts - M.A. - Degree Course Regulations, 2004.

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

"the Board" means the Academic Board of the Link Campus;

"the Board of Studies" means the Board of Studies appointed for the Course;

"the Course" means the course of studies leading to the Degree of Master of Arts - M.A - as approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Academic Board;

"Credit/Credits" means credit/credits awarded according to the guidelines for the European Credit Transfer System;

"the Degree" means the Degree of Master of Arts – M.A.

(3) For any matter not covered by these regulations, the Link Campus Bachelor of Arts – B.A. – and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degrees Course Regulations and the statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University shall apply, as appropriate.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses starting in 2002 or later.

Board of Studies

3. The Course shall be administered by a Board of Studies appointed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board.

Eligibility for the Degree

4. To be eligible for the award of the Degree, students must:

(a) be registered as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University and satisfy the qualification requirements for admission to the Course stipulated in regulation 5;

(b) complete the course of studies, obtain all the credits indicated in regulation 12 and comply with any other requirements as prescribed in these regulations; and

(c) comply with any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

Qualifications for Admission

5. Applicants for admission to the Course shall be in possession of the following qualifications:

(a) a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours from this or another University, or a qualification of comparable standard from another university recognized by Senate for the purpose. The Board may specify the area of study of the first degree required, depending on the area of study chosen; and

(b) a certificate of proficiency in the language/s of instruction.

Preparatory Course

6. (1) Applicants who do not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of regulation 5 but who are in possession of a Bachelor's degree with at least Category II of this University or an equivalent qualification from another university recognized by the Senate for the purpose, may be admitted to the Course if they successfully complete a Preparatory Course.

(2) The Preparatory Course shall extend over one year of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

(3) During the Preparatory Course, students shall be required to obtain at least 60 Credits for modules at Honours level.

(4) The names of students who successfully complete the Preparatory Course shall be published in a list in alphabetical order.

Language of Instruction

7. Except where the Board shall specify otherwise, English shall be the language used for tuition, materials, and assessments.

Registration for the Course

8. Applicants wishing to register for the Course shall apply on the prescribed form and within the time specified by the Office of the Associate Registrar. Applicants shall indicate the area of study they wish to follow.

Course Duration

9. The Course shall extend over a period of twelve months of full-time study or its equivalent in part-time study.

10. Students pursuing the Course on a part-time basis shall be required to register at the beginning of each academic year.

Course of Studies

11. The course of studies may be offered in the following areas of study:

Communications Management
International Legal Affairs
Intelligence and Security
any other area of study approved by Senate.

12. Students shall be required to obtain 75 Credits for the following three components:

(a) a taught component, consisting of modules to which 45 Credits are assigned;

(b) a compulsory Stage of not less than two months to which ten Credits are assigned; and

(c) a compulsory research component leading to the presentation of a dissertation, in accordance with regulation 16, to which twenty Credits are assigned.

13. Students pursuing the Course on a part-time basis may satisfy the Stage component either by completing a Stage of not less than two months or by producing evidence of their current employment (of at least 6 months) to the satisfaction of the Board.

Catalogue of Modules

14. The Board of Studies shall draw up a catalogue of modules for each area of study. The catalogue shall indicate the code, title, and description of each module, which modules are compulsory, elective or optional, the credits assigned to each module, and the methods of teaching and assessment. The Board shall publish the catalogue prior to the commencement of each Course, following the approval of Senate.

Assessment and Progress

15. (1) Students shall be awarded a grade point for modules and the dissertation according to the following assessment criteria:

Grade Point	%	Letter Grade	Italian equivalent	Description
16	87-100	A+	30/30 e lode	Work of exceptional quality. Exceptional performance showing comprehensive understanding and application of subject matter. Evidence of additional reading, research and work.
15	83-86	A	29	
14	80-82	A-	28	
13	77-79	B+	27	Work of very good quality. Performance is typified by a very good working knowledge of the subject matter. Evidence of a fair amount of additional reading, research and work.
12	73-76	B	26	
11	70-72	B-	25	
10	67-69	C+	24	Work of average/fair quality. Considerable but incomplete understanding of the subject matter. Evidence of little additional reading, research and work.
9	63-66	C	23	
8	60-62	C-	22	
7	57-59	D+	21	Work of below average quality. Minimum understanding of the subject matter. Little evidence of additional reading, research and work.
6	53-56	D	20	
5	50-52	D-	19	
4	45-49%	E	18	Marginal performance. Barely sufficient for subsequent study in the same area.
<4	< 45%	F	<18	Unsatisfactory performance. Evidence of failed or poor academic achievement.
3	31-44	F	13-17	Marginally but insufficient preparation in the subject.
2	15-30	F	6-12	Extremely poor performance.
1	1-14	F	1-5	Complete lack of preparation in the subject
0	0	F	0	Not Classifiable (NC)

(2) The grade points for the modules shall take into account the students' performance in the coursework and in written and/or oral examinations which shall be held on completion of a module.

(3) Students who in any semester fail in the assessment of one or more modules to which not more than 4 Credits are assigned shall be allowed a re-assessment once only at the next scheduled examination session. In such cases, the maximum grade point that may be awarded is 4.

(4) Students who in any semester fail in the assessment of modules to which more than 4 Credits are assigned shall be considered to have

definitively failed, unless the Board, at its discretion, allows them an additional year of studies under those conditions as it may impose.

(5) Students who fail any reassessment shall be considered to have definitively failed, unless the Board, at its discretion, allows the students an additional year of studies under those conditions as it may impose.

Dissertation

16. (1) The dissertation shall be of not less that 20,000 and not more than 25,000 words in length, written in English, on a subject proposed by the students and approved by the Board of Studies. It should provide evidence of independent research and constitute an original contribution to the subject.

(2) Students shall present a written proposal for a dissertation topic not later than the end of the first semester. Part-time students shall present the proposal by not later than the date stipulated by the Board of Studies.

(3) On approval of the dissertation proposal, students shall be assigned a supervisor appointed by the Board.

(4) The dissertation shall be submitted by not later than eleven months from the commencement of the Course although the Board may grant an extension of not more than six months in the case of full-time studies and twelve months in the case of part-time studies for the completion of the dissertation.

(5) The dissertation shall be examined by a Board of Examiners appointed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board.

(6) Students shall submit eight copies of the dissertation and declare in writing that the dissertation is their own work and conforms to the requirements indicated in paragraph (1) of this regulation.

(7) The Board of Examiners shall be convened by its Chairman to discuss the dissertations. Students may also be required to take a *viva voce* examination in defence of their dissertation.

(8) The Board of Examiners may approve the dissertation. It may require the students to make corrections or to completely rewrite the dissertation within a stated time limit, or it may reject the dissertation altogether.

(9) Students whose dissertation is rejected or whose corrections or rewriting are considered inadequate or who have not submitted their dissertation within the required time limit, shall not be awarded the Degree.

Classification and Award of the Degree

17. (1) The final result of each student shall take into account the grade points obtained in all modules, the Stage and the dissertation, which shall be weighted according to the number of credits assigned to each.

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order classified as follows:

Passed with Distinction
Passed.