L.N. 77 of 2009

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Magister Juris under the auspices of the Faculty of Laws

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 Laws 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 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Magister Juris 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 Magister Juris;

"the Degree" means the degree of Magister Juris;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study; 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 2008 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered in any area of study that falls 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 one of the following qualifications:

(a) the degree of Doctor of Laws; or

(b) a Bachelor degree in Law as the main Honours area of study, obtained with at least Second Class; or

(c) a degree which the Board considers as comparable to any of the degrees indicated in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this bye-law.

(2) The Board may admit applicants in possession of a degree in an area other than Law if the Board, after having interviewed the applicants, is satisfied that they are able to follow the Course, and provided that they are required to follow a preparatory programme prior to registration for the Course.

Preparatory Programme

5. (1) The preparatory programme shall comprise taught study-units to which not less than 30 credits and not more than 60 credits are assigned and shall also be governed by the Principal Regulations.

(2) Applicants shall be required to successfully complete the preparatory programme of study with an average mark of 55% or better prior to their registration for the Course.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

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

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Mainly research programmes of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which between 10 and 30 credits are assigned to taught study-units and between 60 and 80 credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

12. 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

13. (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 Course full-time, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course part-time, 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 the credits for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertations

14. (1) In mainly taught programmes 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.

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

15. (1) In programmes of study mainly by research, students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 50,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course after approval of the proposal by the Board. 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.

16. (1) In all cases, students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors 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

17. 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

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

Repeal

19. The Regulations of 2001 for the Degree of Magister Juris, published as Legal Notice 276 of 2001 and Legal Notice 277 of 2001, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 October 2008, provided that students registered for this course before 1 October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.